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Hafa Adai!

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Soudelor grazes Saipan, Tinian

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA and JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTERS

The worst of Typhoon Soudelor is expected to be over today as it passed through the CNMI last night. However, gusty winds and rains should still be experienced until this morning.

» 153 individuals seek shelter
» Baby born en route to hospital

As of press time, Typhoon Condition 1 was maintained by acting governor Ralph DLG Torres over Saipan and Tinian as the typhoon approached, bringing with it gusty winds and strong rains.

Typhoon Condition 3 was in effect for the islands of Agrihan, Alamagan and Pagan while Tropical Storm Condition 1 was raised for Rota.

Soudelor intensified from a tropical storm into a typhoon

See SOUDELOR on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Firefighter/EMTs Joseph Rodriguez and Carson Tarkong Jr. have their picture taken with the baby boy that they helped deliver en route to the hospital yesterday. Joining them in this photo is Dr. Anthony R. Stearns.

Federal jury finds Pua guilty

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Qiong Lu Pua walks past Kristo Rai Church in Garapan after a federal jury on Friday found her guilty of conspiracy to defraud the United States for orchestrating two fraudulent marriages so that her brother and friend could obtain green cards. Pua's sentencing will be on Oct. 30, 2015.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal jurors reached a verdict on Friday, finding Qiong Lu Pua guilty of a charge of conspiring with others to orchestrate two fraudulent marriages so that her brother and friend could obtain green cards.

The 12 jurors deliberated for a total of about two hours—about an hour on Thursday and then another hour on Friday morning.

Pua, a Chinese who is a legal permanent resident of the United States, remained calm when a court staff read the verdict at 10:30am.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set the sentencing for Oct. 30, 2015 at 1pm.

Pua faces a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment and a $250,000 fine.

Manglona granted the request of Mark Hanson, the court-appointed lawyer for Pua, for Pua to remain free until her sentencing date. Assistant U.S. attorney Russell Lorfing did not object to the request.

Hanson and his co-counsel,

See FEDERAL on Page 4

Navy war games move forward

» DLNR concerned with lack of marine mammal info
» Torres compares MITT process to CJMT

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

NOAA Fisheries will approve today, Aug. 3, the Department of Navy's incidental take of marine mammals that may be caught between high-energy sonar and undersea detonations training in the Marianas Islands range.

The Navy announced on Friday a "Record of Decision" on expansive undersea and ordnance training in the waters of the Marianas and Farallon de Mendinilla.

See NAVY on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
From rents to haircuts, Americans are starting to feel the price hikes.
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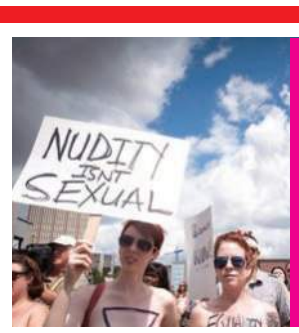
ASIA
Philippine President Benigno Aquino III has picked Mar Roxas to succeed him.
» PAGE 16



WORLD
Dozens of topless women—and men—attend a "Bare With Us" rally in Canada.
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Local

Best Sunshine looks to a bright future with NMI

On Sunday, July 26, 2015, Best Sunshine Live began the dawn of a new era on Saipan with the opening of its doors to the public at the T Galleria in Garapan. The live training facility marks the beginning of a journey to revitalize Saipan's economy. As an appetizer presenting an upscale entertainment experience, much will be anticipated as its first course presents itself to Garapan.

From the beginning, Best Sunshine Live landed itself on Saipan with a clear position to be a member of the community. This mindset formed the cornerstone of all aspects of its approach and varying endeavors on Saipan; from the concept design to the selection of vendors, right down to its hiring and selection of talents and as well its general long-term approach to the makeup of the company.

With a goal to ultimately maximize benefits to the Saipan community and to facilitate business and economic expansion locally, Best Sunshine Live sourced its needs locally right from the start before looking beyond Saipan, with over 40 percent of its needs sourced right here at home on Saipan.

Tremendous support has been provided by local vendors covering industries that range across a variety of the supply spectrum, from small services handling custodial needs to medium-sized businesses handling computer and information technology and escalating all the way to large hotels handling the housing needs of Best Sunshine Live personnel. Best Sunshine Live strives to enhance its goal as a valuable contributor to the community and will continue to look to source locally to support its development and expansion needs before looking beyond the island.

Committing to its mission to elevate and diversify the quality of services offered on Saipan, Best Sunshine Live has also created new career opportunities to the local staff force and offered structured training programs conducted by experienced trainers. These offerings addressed the initial limitations with relatively few local personnel who have the necessary experience in the casino and casino-related hospitality businesses. Best Sunshine Live's robust training programs also present an option for those locally employed with gainful employment and positioning to enable them to take advantage of the plentiful opportunities for career advancement within a progressively growing organization. The strive to build and develop on Saipan a world-class casino and integrated entertainment resorts support the need and drive to ensure that integrity and standard of services cannot be compromised.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Best Sunshine Live began the dawn of a new era on Saipan with the opening of its doors to the public at the T Galleria in Garapan on July 26, 2015.

In terms of the long-term makeup of Best Sunshine, Mark A. Brown, CEO of Best Sunshine Live, already said it best at the most recent public hearing on the development of the complex Grand Mariana. As an aspiration and a goal to accomplish, Brown noted that, "The future outlook of Best Sunshine will become more and more local oriented as those capable and successful local hires working in different functional departments gain valuable experience that prepare them to move up and take on senior corporate positions, not only will Best Sunshine stand as a stronger and more recognized member of the community, but leaders in senior and executive positions will be filled by those capable individuals born and bred right here in the local Saipan community." ***(BSI)***

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JUNE 26 Saipan at Oleai Elementary School Cafeteria & on Tinian at the Tinian Jr. Sr. High School Library 8AM-3PM
JULY 15 Saipan at Oleai Elementary School Cafeteria & on Tinian at the Tinian Jr. Sr. High School Library 8AM-3PM
JULY 16 Rota at Sinapalo Elementary School 9AM-2PM
AUGUST 10 Saipan at Oleai Elementary School Cafeteria & on Tinian at the Tinian Jr. Sr. High School Library 8AM-3PM
AUGUST 11 Rota at Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. Sr. High School 9AM-2PM
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Probable cause found to charge two in $4.3M 'ice' case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has found probable cause to charge Yuliu Liu and Zhenlin Fang with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance over the seizure of over 10,700 grams of methamphetamine or "ice" worth about $3.2 million to $4.3 million.

At a preliminary hearing on Friday, Manglona also granted the request of the defendants' lawyer for more time, resetting the detention hearing for Aug. 14 at 9am.

Liu, 36, and Fang, 24, were remanded into the custody of the U.S. Marshal Service after the hearing.

Manglona said the evidence presented indicates that Customs inspectors detected that an air-compressor from a shipment contained about over 23 lbs or 10 kilograms of methamphetamine.

Manglona said the evidence presented showed that Li and Fang went to the Sunleader warehouse to retrieve the air-compressor.

Although the shipping documents indicate that the air-compressor was consigned to neither of the two suspects, that individual apparently does not even exist or was not investigated, she said.

Manglona noted that Fang has no job but was found driving a Lexus car and was in possession of a receipt for the purchase of Ziploc bags.

Manglona said that authorities subsequently found 130 grams of "ice" at Liu's house in Chalan Piao.

At the hearing, Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe called to the witness stand Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force officer Raymond Renguul and Department of Homeland Security- Homeland Security Investigations special agent Mike Lansangan.

Renguul basically testified how a Customs inspector detected the "ice" in an air compressor in a container from Guangzhou, China, at the seaport warehouse last July 17 that led federal and local authorities to make a follow-up investigation that led to the arrest of the two suspects last July 22.

Renguul said they replaced the "ice" with sugar in the air-compressor during their surveillance operation.

Renguul said about 15 officers, all with drawn guns, stopped the defendants' Nissan Quest van and arrested them.

With a street value of $300 to $400 a gram, the 10,747 grams of "ice" involved were worth $3,224,100 to $4,298,800, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Lansangan said it was he who checked the identity of the defendants and their immigration status.

Lansangan said Fang entered Saipan on conditional parole on March 22, 2013, and that he is already subject for removal.

Liu, meanwhile, entered Saipan on conditional parole on June 25, 2014, and was interviewed by Homeland Security in October 2014 as he was already out of status, Lansangan said.

He said that during the expedited proceedings last Oct. 21, Liu was ordered to return the following day but he failed to do so. Lansangan said Liu is now classified as a fugitive from immigration.

Attorney Steven Pixley, court-appointed counsel for Fang, argued that Fang's name was not in the shipment's documents and that no drugs were found in the search of his house in Upper Navy Hill.

Attorney Benjamin Petersburg, court-appointed counsel for Liu, also argue that his client's name was not in the shipment's documents and that he was not aware of what was inside the air-compressor.

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Kia Rio LX retail price $16,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $269.22 or $124.26 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $16,153.20.
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Kia Soul LX retail price $18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $300.90 or $138.88 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $18,054.00.
Kia Sportage LX retail price $22,495.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $356.34 or $164.46 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $21,380.40.
Kia Sedona LX retail price $30,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $490.99 or $226.61 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $29,459.40.
Kia Cadenza Premium retail price $35,995 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $570.20 or $263.17 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $34,212.00.

NAVY

From Page 1

It chose its "preferred alternative," or training alternative 1, for the Marianas.

One of five major Department of Defense military proposals in the Marianas in recent years, the Record of Decision, or ROD, brings several years of formal commenting and consultation with public agencies to an end.

This public and formal consultation period was part of the National Environmental Policy Act. It compels federal agencies to make clear their actions, examine a range of alternatives, and plan adequate mitigation measures.

However, concerns from local departments and the Inos administration remain.

They say the authorized training goes forward despite a lack of data on the marine mammal stocks that may potentially be exposed to sonar training.

They say the Navy has denied third-party review of environmental impacts around Farallon de Medinilla.

They also say the Navy failed to address alternatives as compelled by NEPA.

In its Record of Decision, the Navy says, "to be reasonable" an alternative must meet the Navy's "stated purposes and need."

To be "reasonable," the Navy eliminated from analysis "alternative training and testing locations, reduced training and testing, mitigations including temporal and geographic" restrictions, and "simulated training and testing."

"After a thorough consideration of each of these alternatives, the Navy determined that they did not meet the purpose of and need for the proposed action," said Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy Steven R. Iselin, who signed the ROD into effect.

The Marianas Islands Training and Testing replaces the Marianas Islands Range Complex activities previously completed and approved five years ago in 2010.

Among the undersea sonar training the ROD approves are strike, amphibious, anti-surface, electronic, anti-submarine, and mine warfare, among others.

It approves the use of F-35 joint strike fighter aircraft, aircraft carrier, destroyer class vessel, and amphibious combat vehicles, among others.

The ROD approves unmanned vehicle and aerial systems.

It also approves numerous rocket and projectile munitions and "kinetic energy weapons" or rail guns that use energy to accelerate projectiles to supersonic levels.

The ROD approves state-of-the art high-frequency sonar systems to be operated from Navy vessels.

On Friday, acting governor Ralph Torres said he believes there exists ongoing concerns in U.S. military projects as to "whether true alternatives to their plans have been brought to the discussion."

Torres was referring to the freshly authorized Marianas Islands Training and Testing project and the CNMI Joint Military Training project, which proposes live-fire ranges on Tinian and Pagan.

"We are currently in the process of commenting on the Department of Navy's lack of adherence to the NEPA regulations in not considering all reasonable alternatives in the CJMT draft [environmental impact statement]—and it's my opinion, that the same concerns existed throughout the formation of this most recent Record of Decision on the MITT."

"The NEPA process is aimed at giving the people a voice in these matters, and in limiting the scope and range of alternative, what should be a productive dialogue on how the CNMI can do its part for our national security, unfortunately, becomes very one-sided," Torres said.

Remaining concerns

The harm to marine mammals from high-frequency sonar is hard to quantify as the Navy has moved forward despite an undetermined stock of marine mammal life in the Marianas.

Department of Land and Natural Resources Secretary Richard Seman said Friday he believes the CNMI is losing out in this whole process.

"We need more technical people that understand this type of technology and understand this type of problem. The problem for the CNMI as far as marine mammals—such as dolphins and whales—[is] we've only even conducted some of data collection on them probably within the last six years. So that's very premature."

He said at least 20 years of data is needed to get more a determined look of the mammals' livelihood and patterns in the Marianas.

"But we don't have that kind of data," he said.

Last December, the Navy summarized a marine monitoring survey of beaked whales between Saipan and Tinian.

The preliminary analysis described detections that indicate beaked whales are present year-round at both sites.

"Given the high frequency of their calls, these animals are relatively near the devices when calls are detected," the Navy said.

However, the Navy went on to say irregularities in beaked whale results require further "ground-truthing" of scientists' use of an automated detector.

To this point, DLNR's Seman said, "Then get the right equipment that will confirm it."

Seman said the Navy's conclusions mean that the Navy is "not in the position to say that [beaked while frequencies] doesn't exist—because everyone knows it exists—but they're are just saying we can't really confirm it."

"It means the Navy should pick out the proper equipment… Not just make a statement that the equipment may not be up to par…They cannot honestly confirm what it is, well, then get the right equipment to confirm it."

"They cannot say there is nothing—even though that is what they want to say—because there is too much evidence that they exist all over our water."

"In the number of times our folks even go out—just between Saipan and Sarigan and Saipan or Anatahan—you cannot miss the whales, you can't, especially the dolphins," the DLNR chief said.

Independent review

Seman also highlighted the importance of third-party review of the Navy's impacts on Farallon de Medinilla.

For the MITT the Navy will use 6,242 explosive bombs per year, use 85 missiles and introduce 2,000 rockets, as well as deploy 600 explosive grenades and mortars per year.

The Navy will also use 1,200 large-caliber explosives on the island and 17,350 medium-caliber projectiles.

The increase in ordnance is a three-fold increase to bombs dropped on land targets.

If the Navy had chosen their "no action" option, explosive bombs would still be at 2,150 per year.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in June said these activities have a potential to "greatly increase erosion and sedimentation" on the island.

In their comments on the MITT, DLNR wrote that the "real ecological impact of proposed activities will be observed and described by Department of Defense-affiliated observes."

"Such observers have the potential to underreport or report with bias the impact of activities. The proposal does not provide for independent assessment of the impact of proposed military activities," DLNR said.

In their response, the Navy has said that third-party observers would be "impractical with regard to implementation of military readiness and result in unacceptable impact on [military] readiness."

Seman, though, disagrees with reasons for "impracticality."

SOUDELOR

From Page 1

just as it was making its closest point of approach near Saipan and Tinian. Packing maximum sustained winds of 75 miles per hour, it was classified as a Category 1 storm but is expected to intensify into Category 3 after leaving the Marianas region. Tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 90 miles from the center in the northern semicircle and 60 miles in the south semicircle.

The typhoon was moving west at a speed of seven miles per hour.

"The storm is compact and the diameter of the storm is about four to five miles wide. It's relatively a small compact storm. It defined itself, now it's a typhoon. The fact that it is slowing down is not a good thing for us," special assistant to Homeland Security and Emergency Management Marvin Seman said.

Winds started picking up at 3pm yesterday and strongest winds were expected at 10pm until midnight.

No more 'all clear'

According to Seman, they won't be issuing an "all clear" anymore.

"That's one of the things now that we are changing, the concept of notices. You're not going to be hearing any more 'all clear'; instead, we're going to be cancelling the advisories based on the threat level," Seman said.

Shelters

Last night, 153 individuals sought refuge in activated shelters.

According to press secretary Ivan Blanco, 34 stayed in Kagman High School, 37 in San Vicente Elementary School, 22 in Koblerville Elementary School, 35 in Garapan Elementary School and seven sought shelter at Tanapag Middle School.

On Tinian, eight individuals stayed at Tinian Elementary School while Dr. Rita Hocog-Inos Jr./Sr. High School and Rota Aging Center in Rota remained empty of evacuees.

Beaches closed, Condition Zulu

As of yesterday morning, public beaches on Saipan were closed.

"All public beaches are closed during the waiting period, as well as the duration of the onslaught of Tropical Storm Soudelor," a press release from the governor's office said.

It added that as of 6am yesterday, the Coast Guard officially placed all ports in Condition Zulu, meaning that all activity, both on the water, and at the seaports is officially suspended pending the passage of the storm and the elimination of any further threat from Soudelor.

Power outages

Reports of power outages were received by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. as early as 5pm.

As of 6pm last night, a fallen tree caused the downing of power lines in Garapan and Feeder 2 was also down.

At 7pm, CUC reported that Feeder 2 is back up and running, save for the lateral line at the site of the fallen tree. Power outages on Capital Hill and surrounding community as well as in Kagman caused by a burning power pole were still being addressed.

Baby born

In the midst of the preparations for the worst of Typhoon Soudelor, a baby was born. At 10am yesterday, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services received a call for an ambulance for labor pain in the Susupe area.

Medic-1 from the Koblerville Fire Station and the Rescue unit from the Susupe Fire Station responded. The 7-lb, 2.5-ounce baby boy was delivered en route to the hospital by firefighter/EMTs Joseph Rodriguez and Carson Tarkong Jr. The mother and the baby were stable and taken to the hospital.

Rota and Tinian prepared

Tinian and Rota were fully prepared as Tropical Storm Soudelor approached yesterday evening.

Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig said his constituents are well prepared and are on standby with emergency operations.

He said they aren't taking any emergency measures yet due to it being tropical storm watch. However, the Aging Center in Sinapalo and Rita Hocog Inos Jr. Sr. High School has been identified as an evacuation and emergency shelter.

"So far there is no disruption here and the airport is closed but all essential government agencies remain open. We have everyone on standby and the emergency operation teams such as Department of Public Safety and Homeland Security is prepared," Atalig said.

He said that as soon as the typhoon intensifies, they would activate their emergency plans.

Meanwhile, the Tinian Mayor's Office has already activated its Emergency Operations Center as of 7am yesterday. Due to a power outage, the EOC was at the Tinian Mayor's Office.

San Nicolas confirmed that Tinian Elementary School has been designated as a typhoon shelter and currently has eight evacuees.

"Tinian EOC is activated. Teams has been briefed. All on-island command posts such as Commonwealth Ports Authority, DPS, and Tinian Health Center have been activated. Tinian EOC is being assisted by two personnel from Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, providing technical and planning support," he said.

"There has been a new public announcement system received from Homeland Security. Tinian shelter is the TInian Elementary School cafeteria. Shelter has been open since 8pm last night. In constant communication with the state emergency operations center," he added.

San Nicolas is also requesting everyone to prepare for the typhoon and be safe.

For more information call Tinian EOC at 433-1800. Homeland Security point of contact is Wally Villagomez at 989-9042. Shelter is 783-8962.

LibDay carnival cancelled

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang issued a notice yesterday that the 2015 Liberation festival grounds will be closed due to Tropical Storm Soudelor until further notice.

Apatang said there isn't a confirmed date yet on the carnival grounds will reopen but he will let the public know.

"Due to the anticipated threat of Typhoon Soudelor, which is expected to make its nearest approach to Saipan today, Aug. 2, the 4th of July festivities will be postponed until further notice," Apatang said.

"I will notify the general public when weather conditions are clear and safe for the 4th of July festivities to resume. On behalf of my office, Skywalker Communications Group and the 2015 Liberation Committee, we apologize for any inconvenience. The postponement of the festivities assures the safety of the public and concessionaires," he said.

In related news, the carnival is now extended to Aug. 30 and will be closed on Sunday and Monday but will be open from Tuesday to Saturday, according to Skywalker's business director Elvis Yu.

Yu said the community can now expect the carnival games to be ready after the typhoon. Yu said the shipment has been cleared and will be set up after the weather clears.

According to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the hospital will remain open but clinics are closed until Monday, when the storm clears.

FEDERAL

From Page 1

Benjamin Petersburg, refused to comment after the hearing.

Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the NMI, said in a statement that obtaining immigration benefits illegally is a continuing problem that threatens the safety of the community.

"Becoming a legal permanent resident of the United States is an accomplishment that should not be demeaned by the criminal acts of those who enter into fraudulent marriages," said Limtiaco, who vowed that her office will continue to work with federal and local law enforcement partners, such as the Diplomatic Security Services and Homeland Security Investigations, to put an end to this problem.

In this case, the Diplomatic Security Services agency of the Department of State conducted the investigation with assistance from the Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Ross Naughton assisted Lorfing in prosecuting the case.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

ACG: DEIS not in the best interest of Tinian

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

Alter City Group, which plans to build a $1.2-billion casino project on Tinian, has expressed its opposition to the planned military expansion on the island and its effects on the rest of the CNMI.

In a nine-page public comment submitted to the U.S. military, ACG stated that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the CNMI Joint Military Training is "inappropriate, ill-conceived, and impermissible."

"The DEIS is not in the best interest of Tinian and the CNMI and will adversely affect the economic development of Tinian inclusive of ACG's substantial investment to build its hotel and resort facilities on the island adjacent to the area to be used by the military," the document, signed by ACG managing director Ken Lin, said.

Alter City said it will not only protect its investment but will also protect the people of Tinian and their cultural and economic resources "from a military intent on running roughshod over these concerns."

"ACG is prepared to take whatever legal action necessary, in the form of a cause of action for tortuous interference of contract, injunctive relief, and otherwise, to protect its agreement and its promises for Tinian," their statement said.

Concerns on transportation, sites

Their comment on the U.S. military's proposed live-fire and explosive ordnance training highlighted concerns on transportation, noise pollution, vegetation destruction, recreational restriction, cultural resource destruction/restriction, and the fuel pipeline through their leased property.

ACG said that allowing the military's plans—as outlined in the DEIS—would make transportation, which is already a challenge now, more difficult for Tinian's residents and visitors. Flights and ferries, which ACG plans to provide, will be required to travel outside restricted airspace and areas, resulting in delays as well as increased fuel consumption.

The group is also concerned about the noise that the military will generate during activities such as construction, live-fire and other training. ACG pointed out that their development is located right next to the military leased area and in between the military leased area and San Jose, which will make noise much more perceptible to their upcoming Plumeria Resort.

ACG also noted that the military's would-be restrictions to significant historical and recreational sites such as the Shinto Shrine, Hinode American Memorial, Tinian Grotto, and Fleming Point is damaging to the purpose of their development.

'Biggest concerns'

One part of the draft EIS that ACG "vehemently opposes" is the military's proposed construction of an underground fuel pipeline to run through their leased property.

"Either the military did not know the property is already leased to ACG or it knew and callously disregarded ACG's property rights," it stated. "ACG vehemently opposes this proposed taking and is fully prepared to take legal action in opposition if necessary."

The Macau-based company also pointed out that the military might have an effect with regards to the visa waiver program.

"ACG's biggest concern is, through this investment over the next few years, what guarantees or assurances do we have that our biggest tourism base (China) will not be restricted from entering Tinian or the CNMI due to the visa waiver program being altered to protect the military actions?" their statement said.

'Military wasteland'

According to the company, DEIS will turn Tinian into a "military wasteland devoid of all of its attractions and scenery" and will result the failure of Tinian's socioeconomic, environmental, ecological, and cultural structure.

ACG concluded that it is opposed to all three Tinian alternatives. And questioned the appropriateness of Tinian to be turned into a location for what they called "destructive military training."

It pointed out that the "DEIS is a direct and immediate threat to the economic development and prosperity of Tinian" and, while the benefits from the DEIS are minimal, the "burdens are significant and unsustainable."

Temporary water outage on Thursday

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in San Jose and Oleai will experience a temporary water service interruption on Thursday, Aug. 6, as crews continue work on the Department of Public Works Texas Road Improvement Project.

At 8am, CUC will temporarily interrupt water service to customers in San Jose and Oleai, to allow DPW's contractor, AIC Marianas Inc., improve the local water system while crews make way for the road improvements.

Crewmen will replace two of the existing gate valves, disconnect the 10-inch water line from the 12-inch water line, install a pressure reducing valve, and connect a new 10-inch water line to the existing 10-inch water line.

Work on the project is expected to take up to nine hours to complete, at which time water service will be restored to the area. Customers in the vicinity may temporarily experience higher than normal chlorine levels as part of the sanitization process when the main is put back into service. CUC advises customers to run the water until the chlorine level is reduced.

CUC also encourages all customers in the affected communities to conserve water and that those who have water tanks and cisterns ensure their on-site equipment is fully functional and sanitary.

For more information about the project, contact our 24-hour Call Center at 664-4CUC (4282). ***(CUC)***

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Prenell Robert B. Bansil began working at Mariana Resort & Spa in October 2011 and has served as supervisor of the Transportation Dept. since August 2014. His duties include transporting guests to and from the hotel, assisting guests with check-in or check-out, and directing customers to their rooms.
"When I began working for the Mariana Resort and Spa, I started as a kitchen helper, and then I worked with the purchasing department and at the front desk. But I like the transportation department best, because I get to meet a lot of new people. We make friends with the guests, sometimes learn a little of their language, and trade emails. They even at times call us which makes us feel good because it shows us that they enjoyed their stay at Mariana Resort and Spa."
"I like working at a Mariana Resort and Spa. Some of our summer trainees ask me what it's like working here at Mariana Resort. I tell them, 'It's good!' For people that want to work here, I believe they would like it.
"I was just recently promoted to supervisor. The challenging part of my job is dealing with the customers. We must always watch out for the customer and take care of them, because without them, we're nothing here at the hotel. We should all help bring tourists - Japanese, Koreans, Chinese, Russians and from around the world - to the CNMI, for a better economy. And, one way to do that is to make sure we give our guests the best services so that they become loyal guests, coming back every year and inviting others as well."
Prenell Robert B. Bansil
Transportation Dept. Supervisor

Regulators looking at license fees for 'junket' operators

By JOEL PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission is eyeing to impose license fees on casino junket operators that may come into the CNMI.

Junket operators bring in a group of players to certain casinos and provide these players—often "high rollers"—with perks such as free accommodations and others.

Commission executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero said the panel will look into regulations and determine if junket operators can be considered "casino service providers' and are thus subject to licensing.

Deleon Guerrero said the draft regulations that the commission uses does not include junket operators as service providers, but he said this can be one of the amendments that can be introduced.

Currently, the commission imposes license fees for casino employees, gaming tables, vendors, and gaming machines being used by Best Sunshine International Ltd.

BSI recently held a "soft opening" for a temporary casino in Garapan at the T Galleria.

Answering a query from regulators, Mark Brown, CEO of Best Sunshine said, he does not expect junket operators to come in this early. He said the operators could come in the new few months.

The Garapan casino is set for a full launch this week.

The commission last week authorized BSI to open the casino from 12nn to 12 midnight from Sunday to Thursday. By Friday until Saturday, it will be open until 2am. By Monday next week, operations will be for 24 hours.

Lee Pan pushes for Cebu Pacific as budget carrier for the CNMI

Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan) is seeking an audience with top executive of Cebu Pacific Air on the possibility of the low-cost Philippine carrier serving the Commonwealth.

Guerrero said he has sent an official letter to Lance Y. Gokongwei, CEO and president of Cebu Pacific, and has gotten an acknowledgment from the office of the executive.

In his letter, Guerrero said that travel to Manila is "very inconvenient" for the traveling public because "they have to fly from Saipan to Guam on a small 40-seater airplane then wait [in] Guam for several hours for connecting flights to the Philippines."

Guerrero cited that "flight delays and cancellations are common occurrences causing sufferings to patients, many of whom are on a wheelchair."

Manila is one of the preferred destinations for patients seeking treatment for cases that cannot be treated in the Commonwealth.

There are other flight options, either through Incheon in Korea or in Narita in Japan, but both routes also have "waiting time of 6 to 8 hours and with similar airfares," the lawmaker said.

Guerrero said he is not seeking services on a daily basis "but at least 2 to 3 times a week to help our patients seeking medical treatment in your country."

In the long term, Guerrero said, he would also like to invite Cebu Pacific "to consider flying your Japan flights to Osaka-Nagoya-Saipan-Manila."

He cited that the CNMI "lost air connection in our Osaka and Nagoya gateways" that resulted in businesses losses for the tourism industry.

PAL flights

Last month, flag-carrier Philippine Airlines disclosed that it is looking at reviving its Manila-Saipan route by operating a new direct service between the Philippine capital and the CNMI capital starting December.

The new service is being eyed through its subsidiary, PAL Express network.

PAL is reportedly eyeing to offer two weekly flights to the Commonwealth. The carrier used to service the Manila-Saipan route in the early 1990s.

(Joel Pinaroc)

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Federal judge dismisses suit over defective airport terminal project

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court on Thursday dismissed a contractor's lawsuit against Leo A. Daly Company, a Nebraska corporation that designed and constructed the defective terminal addition project at the Francisco C. Ada International Airport.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge J. Michael Seabright approved the parties' stipulation for dismissal with prejudice of all claims in the lawsuit filed by Boeing Company.

Dismissal with prejudice means Being Company cannot re-open the case anymore.

Chicago, Illinos-based attorney Michael B. Slade signed the request for dismissal on behalf of the Boeing Company and Boeing Service Company.

» **Nebraska corporation settles contractor's lawsuit**

San Francisco-California-based attorney Nicholas Merrell signed the request for dismissal on behalf of defendant Leo A. Daly Co.

The parties recently informed the court about their settlement. They did not disclose the terms of the settlement.

Boeing Service Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Boeing Company, a Delaware corporation that is reportedly the world's largest aerospace company and a leading manufacturer of commercial jetliners and defense, space, and security systems.

Boeing Company worked closely with the federal government to implement upgraded security systems following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority contracted with Boeing to procure the design and ultimate construction of the terminal addition project.

Boeing entered into subcontracts with Leo A. Daly Company under which Leo A. Daly was responsible for both the design and construction management of the project.

Boeing Company and Boeing Service Company later sued Leo A. Daly for breach of contract, express contractual indemnity, implied contractual indemnity, professional malpractice, negligence, violation of CNMI Consumer Protection Act, violations of Building Code, bad faith, and contributions.

Boeing asked the court to hold Leo A. Daly liable to pay them over $5 million in damages, and reimburse them of all costs and attorneys' fees.

Boeing counsel Sean Frink stated that Boeing had no choice but to file the lawsuit because Leo A. Daly refused to fix the structure, to settle the parties' dispute, or to reimburse Boeing for the damages caused by Leo A. Daly's errors.

Frink said as a result of Leo A. Daly's negligent and deficient design, CPA issued a demand to Boeing, asking Boeing to tear down and rebuild the project and pay CPA millions of dollars in damages and attorneys' fees.

Leo A. Daly, through counsel Patrick J. Kirby, said any injuries or damages allegedly sustained by Boeing Company and Boeing Service Company in the project were caused solely by the conduct of third persons, entities, or parties.

Last August, Judge Seabright dismissed CPA's lawsuit against Boeing after the parties reached a settlement that has been approved by the Superior Court.

Seabright, however, then ruled that Boeing's lawsuit against Leo A. Daly, which is also pending before the federal court, will continue.

In its lawsuit, CPA asked the court to order the defendants to pay in excess of $1 million for damages, courts costs, and attorney's fees.

Last batch of rebates worth nearly $1.5M out

The Department of Finance on Friday released the last batch of tax refunds for calendar year 2014.

An advisory from the department said the rebates total about $1.49 million with the following breakdown: $1,250,323 in child care tax refunds and $240,644 in regular tax refunds or rebates.

In a statement, acting governor Ralph DLG. Torres lauded the department for the release of the rebates.

"My appreciation to Secretary Larson and the hardworking folks at the Department of Finance for ensuring the expedited release of tax refunds. If you have not received yours yet, please contact the Tax and Revenue office to clear any errors that may exist," Torres said.

In mid-June, the Finance department started releasing the tax rebates for the July release.

The department said rebates reaching approximately $3.3 million will be sent to close to 5,000 taxpayers.

This batch was released to those taxpayers who filed their returns by March 31, 2015.

The early release of initial batch of rebates provided relief to the CNMI community, with recipients immediately using the checks to purchase basic goods.

Some of the tax checks have been released a couple of weeks ahead of schedule. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

CDA sees number of inquiries on Oleai locations

The Commonwealth Development Authority has seen a number of inquiries in their office building in Oleai, says CDA executive director Manuel Sablan, but they would have to wait on its sale until they relocate.

CDA has announced the sale of its commercial building in Oleai for a minimum $2 million.

The CDA property is a three-story building with rental area of 18,000 square feet. It has a total building area of 24,888 square feet, and a total land area of 2,787 square meters.

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* there have been a "number of interest" but did not specify further.

"We've indicated to the board that we may have to delay the decisions of selling the building or leasing the building until we settle the issue regarding our relocation. It doesn't make sense for us to sell this and remain here" since it would incur costs, he said.

"One of the reasons we were doing this is there are some interested individuals and companies that wanted to buy this property," explained board chair Diego Songao then. ***(Dennis Chan)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMC offices closed Tuesday, Aug. 4

Northern Marianas College employees will be participating in professional development activities tomorrow, Aug. 4, 2015. All NMC offices will be closed on this day to ensure maximum employee participation. However, summer classes and placement tests scheduled on this day will proceed as planned. We apologize for any inconvenience caused. For any campus emergency, contact NMC Security at 234-5498 ext. 1911. For more information about upcoming events, visit www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Military training at FDM, Warning Area 517

The U.S. Marines and U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Aug. 3-6 from 10:30am to 8:30pm
- Aug. 7 from 10:30am to 4:30pm
- Aug. 8-9 from 10am to 5pm

The U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard will conduct training at Warning Area 517 Aug. 4-5 from 8am to 8pm.

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. All vessels are advised to remain clear of W-517 south of latitude 12° 40' 00»N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. ***(PR)***

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Local leaders give all out support in war vs drugs

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Local leaders of Saipan and the Northern Islands are in full support of the Department of Public Safety and other law enforcement agencies' war against drugs.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Northern Islands Mayor Jerome K. Aldan, and the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council are ready to give their assistance and have urged strong community support in the fight against destructive drugs in the CNMI.

Apatang showed his unequivocal support after he sent a letter to Division of Customs director Jose C. Mafnas on Thursday.

"Our residents are breathing much easier today because of your and the Customs officers' intense diligence and well-executed vigilance that resulted in the interception of 23 lbs of the most destructive form of substance that has hit our islands," Apatang said.

He said he is privy to the negative impact of illegal drugs on families and the community.

"We have seen how families have been torn apart, how peaceful and safe neighborhoods have deteriorated, how lives have been turned upside down, how businesses have shut doors and moved on elsewhere after losses, how resources have been expended," he said.

Last July 17, Customs. along with other law enforcement agencies, intercepted 23.5 lbs of methamphetamine or "ice"—with the street value of $4.2 million—after inspecting a 40-foot container from China.

Mafnas said the "ice" seizure is the biggest drug bust in CNMI history.

"Customs officers' keenness in identifying the manner in which methamphetamine have been concealed and smuggled into our island is very commendable…We ought to be thankful and proud of Mafnas and the Customs officers' faithful commitment to making the CNMI a safe and peaceful place to live and work," Apatang said.

He said his office is here to back Customs up and join the fight against illegal drugs.

Aldan and Municipal Council chair Antonia Tudela joined Apatang in support of CNMI Customs' efforts.

"We support CNMI Customs in ridding local communities of all forms of substance abuse and misuse, including extra effort by the joint Drug Enforcement Agencies in arresting the rampant uses and users of 'ice' or methamphetamine," Aldan said.

Tudela noted that the new school year is close to opening and more awareness is needed against illegal drugs.

"Before the opening of schools, we intend to educate the public about how the Saipan Neighborhood Watch can provide extra eyes and ears in curbing crime in the CNMI, which is also related to the abuse and misuse of controlled substances," she said.

SHEFA applicants for fall 2015 at 980

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program received a total of 980 applications for this year's fall semester, according to SHEFA administrator Merissa S. Rasa.

A total of 280 applicants are new, while 700 are still ongoing or returning applications. Of the 980 applications, 77 have been approved, 13 have been denied, and 890 are still pending.

In spring semester 2015, there were 1,038 valid applications. The turnout for this coming semester is a little less.

"This week we just finished

»Release of first batch of checks eyed Aug. 10

inputting all applications into our system and will continue prioritizing application reviews and check requests for submissions for processing," Rasa said Thursday morning in her presentation to the SHEFA board at the Saipan Mayor's Office conference room.

She explained that 13 applicants were denied because they didn't meet the acquired GPA of 2.5 or have repeated a course that SHEFA had already paid for in the spring semester.

She noted that they are scheduled to submit last Friday "more or less about a 150" check requests to the Department of Finance to be processed for the first batch.

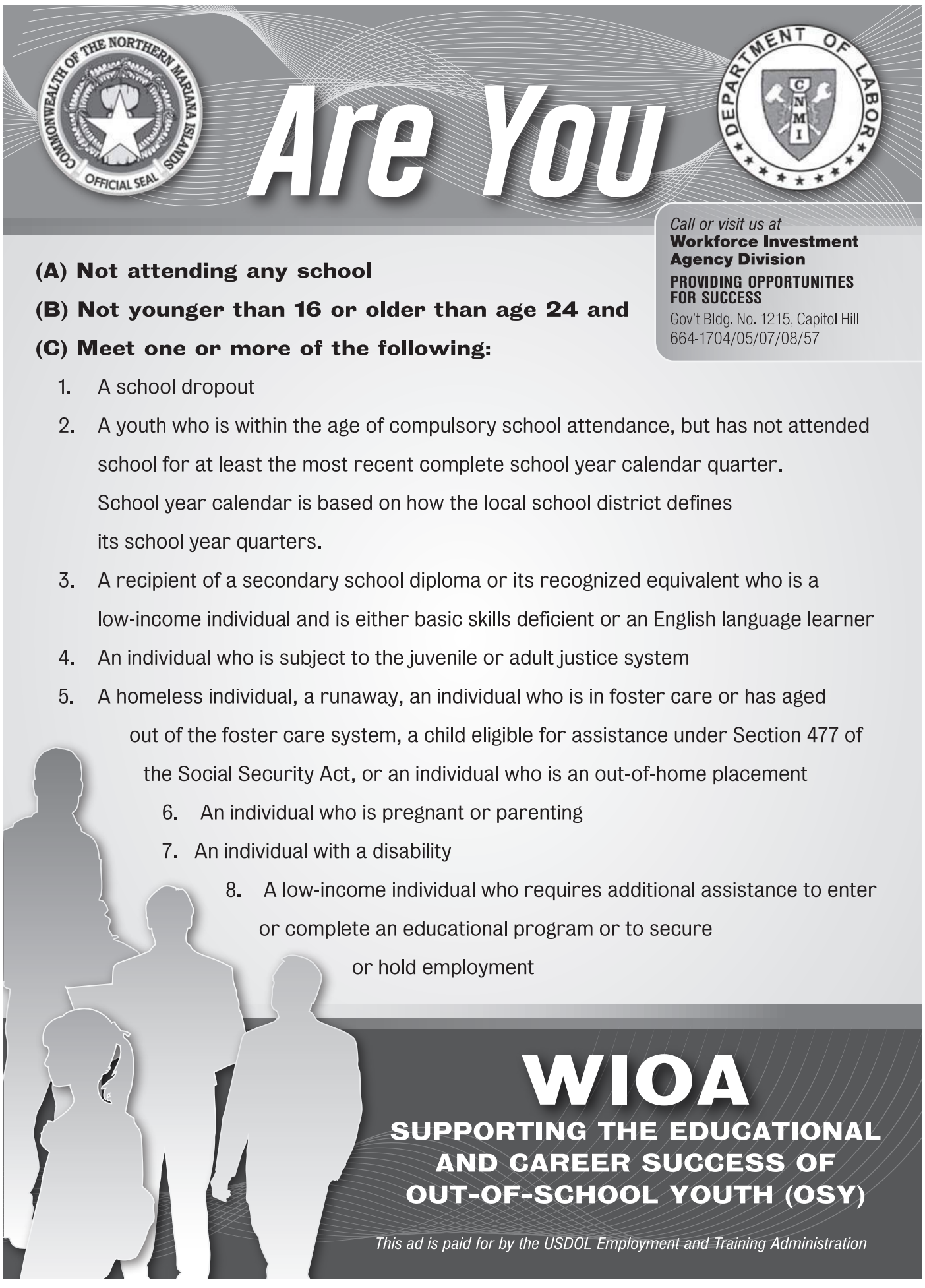
"DOF have been very good at getting our checks out on a timely manner and most of the time we get the checks out earlier so I am hoping that we get our first batch out," she said.

Rasa hopes to have the first batch of checks out by Aug. 10 and will be conducting first check requests every Friday for updates.

Rasa said that they are no longer accepting applications for fall 2015 and wants to remind applicants that their supporting documents deadline is in September. Students who turn in their supporting documents will be reviewed early.

Meanwhile, Rasa also noted that the SHEFA website has been upgraded and will now include basic features that allows students to apply online, change their information, and view their application status for a more user-friendly experience. The upgraded website will also have sections specifically for awards, compliance, employment, or collection.

As of now, SHEFA has collected a total of $74,550, which is up from the $70,000 reported during their July 2 meeting.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Lawmakers cautiously welcome news of more Cape Air flights

Lawmakers are cautiously welcoming news that Cape Air will be able to field more flights, now that the interisland carrier is set to operate two airplanes on its Guam-CNMI route.

Rep. Francis Taimanao (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications, said this is "good news" for the CNMI's traveling public.

"I just hope [Cape Air is] able to maintain this," Taimanao said, adding that Cape Air previously had two airplanes, only to reduce the number to one.

Taimanao said his committee has yet to hear from Cape Air on the details of the additional airplane but emphasized that he welcomes additional flights.

Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan) chairman of the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism, said he also considers the development "good news" for the CNMI.

"Hopefully, we don't see both aircraft break down," Guerrero said, adding that he hopes the services will improve, including flights to Rota.

The lawmaker also said if he's going to give recommendations to Cape Air, he would ask the company to upgrade the current aircraft it uses.

"Cape Air should consider finding a more suitable aircraft, perhaps a jet, instead of the turboprop that they now operate," Guerrero said.

He said he understands the business side of it, and that a jet might be more costly in the short term.

"I hope Cape Air is now ready to say that they are not going to encounter any more mechanical problems with these two airplanes," Guerrero said.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) on Wednesday said Cape Air/United will now fly two planes on its Guam-CNMI route.

In a Facebook post, Sablan announced that a second Cape Air/United airplane arrived on Saipan on Monday afternoon and will take about a week before it flies.

Cape and United Airlines are code share partners for the Guam-CNMI route.

CPA confirmed the arrival of the second airplanes, adding that the second aircraft was stationed at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport.

CPA said the aircraft has to undergo flight checks before flying. The ports authority could not yet provide a date when the second plane would fly. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

Bank opposes remanding $40M lawsuit to Superior Court

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MUFG Union Bank and two bank employees are opposing the request of the widow of former Saipan mayor Donald Glenn P. Flores to remand her $40-million lawsuit for fraud against them to the Superior Court.

Union Bank and co-defendants Victoria Borja Concepcion and Ken Kato, through counsel Sean E. Frink, said a section of the Edge Act and the rationale for granting jurisdiction to the federal courts supports the removal of Cecilia U. Flores' lawsuit to the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Edge Act allows national banks to engage in international banking through federally chartered subsidiaries. Section 632 of the Act authorizes removal of lawsuits filed against national banks to federal courts.

Frink said Section 632 of the Edge Act applies to national banks doing business in the CNMI.

He also asserted that a section of the Covenant provides that Section 632 of the Edge Act, a banking law, applies to the CNMI, just as it applies to Guam.

The lawyer said the Edge Act also applies directly to the CNMI because the Commonwealth is a "dependency or insular possession."

Mrs. Flores, through counsel Juan T. Lizama, is suing Union Bank of California and its former employees, Borja Concepcion and Kato, over a bank manager's alleged unauthorized release of Mr. Flores' money years prior to his death from his $200,000 time certificate of deposit to a person representing him.

Mrs. Flores asked the Superior Court to hold Union Bank liable to pay her $20 million in damages. She also asked the court to hold Concepcion and Kato responsible to pay her $20 million in damages. She demanded payment for court costs and attorney's fees.

MUFG Union Bank, however, recently sought to move the lawsuit to the federal court, with Frink asserting that the Edge Act expressly provides for removal of cases in state court that meet its jurisdictional requirements "at any time before the trial."

Mrs. Flores opposed the removal.

Lizama asserted that Mrs. Flores' case was filed in the Superior Court and the basis for removal under the Edge Act is not sufficient to confer jurisdiction on the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

In Union Bank and co-defendants' opposition filed Thursday, Frink said the acts complained of by Mrs. Flores "arises out of" transactions involving banking in a dependency or insular possession of the United States.

Frink said there is no question that Union Bank is a national bank and that the events in question took place in the CNMI, which like Guam is a "dependency or insular possession of the United States."

In Mrs. Flores' motion, however, Frink said, she also apparently claims that this lawsuit does not "arise out of transactions involving…banking."

Frink said a review of plaintiff's complaint makes it clear that this entire case is fundamentally premised upon her claim that she is at least a part-owner of the $200,000 CD issued by the bank to the now deceased Mr. Flores on Sept. 10, 1993.

Frink said the CD—and all of the events that surrounded its issuance and Mr. Flores' repeated demands for payment of the funds and interest represented by the CD—is the foundation upon which the complaint is built.

Frink said Mrs. Flores attempts to make much of the fact that her only causes of action are for fraud due to statements that were either made or not made to her regarding the CD.

He said a review of Mrs. Flores' two causes of action, however, makes clear that her fraud claims are entirely about the CD, the events surrounding its issuance, and her husband's demands for payment of the funds represented by the CD.

In other words, the lawyer pointed out, not only does this lawsuit "arises out of" the "transactions involving" the CD, is it entirely about the CD.

In 2011, Donald Flores filed a lawsuit in federal court against Union Bank of California and FHB for allegedly refusing to return the principal and interest earned on the CD. Donald Flores passed away in June 2014.

14 boxes of books donated to DYS

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Youth Services received on Saturday book donations that will be used by detainees at the juvenile detention facility of the Department of Corrections.

Fourteen boxes of books were delivered to the DYS office in Tanapag.

According to Youth Services administrator Vivian Sablan, the program was originally made possible through their collaboration with the Public School System. Members of the AmeriCorps from Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School and Hopwood Jr. High School led the book drive.

"I would like to thank the AmeriCorps program for helping us," Sablan said, "We would like to thank you for these resources and we would like to continue working together. We're all in here for the same population and we hope to expand what we have to help the kids out."

"We hope that, with these books, our youths can make good use of them," GTC site supervisor for AmeriCorps Yoly dela Cruz said.

New and used books donated include some fiction novels, chapter books, encyclopedia for the youth, reading materials from the school, fitness books as well as how-to guides.

Books will be screened prior to turning them over to the Department of Corrections.

"We don't want our numbers to be high over there but we have that obligation to make sure that we have programs running. This is part of the educational component," Sablan said.

Dela Cruz commended her members for their efforts.

"We worked so hard to get our flyers out. [Jenny Sablan] actually posted all the flyers around the island and luckily we also have Hopwood Jr. High School, Ms. Jackie Echon, helping us. All this collection is actually a collaboration between Hopwood and GTC," Dela Cruz said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Dormant Deposit Accounts

The Dormant Deposit Accounts listed below are currently held at the Bank of Saipan and have been inactive. If you believe you have a claim to any of these accounts, please make your claim at the Chalan Kanoa Branch of Bank of Saipan before October 1, 2015.

Names
Lee, Hyo Jung
Guo, Wu Li
He, Yang / Han, Yu Xiang / He, Jian Zhong
Chhetri, Laxman K
Gu, Shu Fang
Hermo, Elmo Faris
Innoasset Limited
Chen, Xiao Yan
Manglona, Prudencio PB Maintenance Services
Guan, Shan Ling
Kolochko, Mikhail
Kang, Wenjun
Kim, Joo Young
Qiqihar Zhongwei Co Ltd dba Saimei Market

Pursuant to Public Law 18-69, any unclaimed deposits remaining from this list after October 1, 2015 will be paid to the "CNMI TREASURER" and delivered to the Department of Commerce, Banking Division. Therefore, any claims made after October 1, 2015 must be made at the CNMI Department of Commerce, Banking Division.

BANK OF SAIPAN

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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When he becomes she, what about me?

By LISA JAFFE HUBBELL
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Every time Caitlyn Jenner makes headlines, I can't help but think of Kris, her ex-wife. Kris may put on a smile and say how lovely Caitlyn looks, how brave she is, how well things are going for her, but Kris has revealed some less charitable thoughts too. I'd bet she is actually raw and angry and sad. I'd put money on it because I too am the ex-wife of a trans woman.

"I feel like it didn't exist," Kris says in a video you can find online. Her mascara runs. She's crying about the life she lived with Caitlyn nee Bruce. I said much the same thing, but the words I used were "negated" and "erased." If my husband was really always a she, then were we ever really an us?

Maura—I call her my wasband—still doesn't understand how I can question the reality of the 13 years we were married before her big reveal, any more than I understand how she subjugated her feelings of gender dysphoria all that time. In 2008, when I found out that, all in all, he'd rather be a she, I would have killed to know there were others out there like me, who had gone through this experience and survived. I went looking. I asked contacts from my ever-widening circle in the trans community. Did they know anyone who might talk to me? Nothing. No one.

That was eight years ago, when trans issues were not often discussed except in purely salacious terms. People gawked at our situation like it was an accident on the side of the road. The spotlight wasn't on the wife or family but the trans person him or herself: the pregnant man or Chaz Bono. I looked for peer-reviewed academic articles on how healthcare professionals could help the families of trans people through their own transitions. I couldn't find any; I still can't.

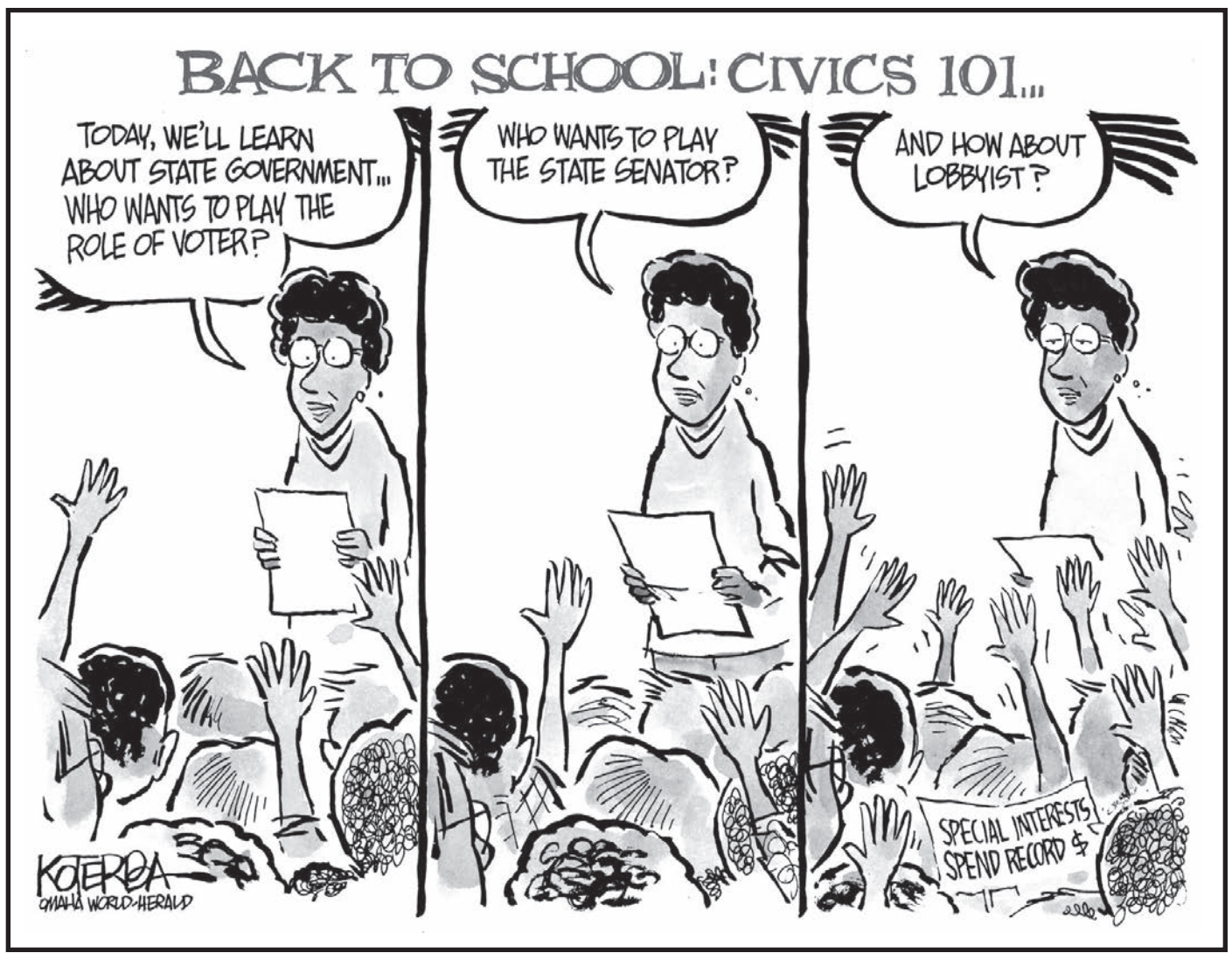
I started out confused, and so did my son. Were the things he thought he knew about his dad true? Yes, mostly. M, as he calls her, is the same parent as Dad was, with the same expectations. Were the things his dad told him over the years valid? Yes to that too, because gender identity was nothing they had ever discussed. What would happen at school? He and I brainstormed responses, just in case. "Yes my dad's a girl, and so...?" "What's it matter to you?" We practiced saying them. The taunts didn't come, but it helped to have a ready comeback. It still does.

The other day I looked at my son's hands, which are nothing like mine. He has her hands: long delicate fingers that gesture like the man I married. When he was a toddler, my boy sat up in bed and scratched his chest just like his father. I laughed at the idea that my husband, when he was old, would share this gesture with his middle-aged son, and maybe with his son. Only now there will be no old husband, and here I am again with a lump in my throat.

The weirdness of my situation doesn't dissipate, and it seems to give people permission to ask questions they would never dare ask a more prosaic divorcee. Getting a new phone on our still-to-be-sorted family plan a few weeks ago, the salesman called me Maura. "Oh no, that's the wasband," I said, giving a bare rundown of the story. "Did you have any idea before he told you?" he asked.

To me the questions feel like blame—for marrying someone I shouldn't have, for not seeing something I should have noticed, for pushing him to a point that he needed to leave his

See WHEN on Next Page


BACK TO SCHOOL: CIVICS 101...
TODAY, WE'LL LEARN ABOUT STATE GOVERNMENT... WHO WANTS TO PLAY THE ROLE OF VOTER?
WHO WANTS TO PLAY THE STATE SENATOR?
AND HOW ABOUT LOBBYIST?
SPECIAL INTERESTS SPEND RECORD $
KOTERBA
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

My turn at 70

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

Aug. 1 is the first day of my 71st year. I am on to my eighth decade, but the Gregorian calendar count on age is only 70 at the end of my 70th year. To the Greco-Romans I am only 70, so in there I shall remain.

Actually, the mind got stuck at 50, the mid-'90s mindset when autism started to haunt our daily living, and I surrendered my marriage to the turbulent rocks of domestic tranquility. The mind resigned to the meditative ways of the Apple MacBook and had never recovered from the chore to wordsmith ever since.

The heart was set to habit much earlier in the wide ethnic field of *Pinoylandia*, so my discourse now claims that I am but a 20-year sapling bamboo with 50-year experience in global connecting and networking. Diversity is my heritage in a Sino-Indo-Malay historical tradition; I am a mobile antenna of ethnic and mental variety.

The soul was charred April 4, 1968, afternoon when a Pinoy sailor paid us a visit at the SMU campus in Dallas, Texas, bearing a PX gift of whiskey, drank one jigger too many and drove back to his NAS station north of the city, giving not much attention to the traffic. He plowed into the back of a stopped car at a traffic light going 75 miles per hour downhill. I sat at the back without a seatbelt.

MLK Jr. was shot in Memphis at about the time I woke up from the crash and walked away from shattered glass, called my dorm roommate, and checked myself in at the SMU infirmary when it became obvious that my adrenaline flow had worn off. Just a month before, I marched with MLK to Arlington Cemetery protesting the War in Vietnam for siphoning resources slated for the War on Poverty. The man of small physical stature cast a long shadow.

The body refuses to cooperate with the soul, so I often nurse wrinkles with olive oil, and attend to the body aches with deft finger kneading. Youth after all is but a state of the mind and vitality is a matter of choice. Being profound is a chosen stature, not the natural state of one's mind, body, heart, and soul! That's until I fumble the keys in front of my apartment, and 70 conveniently flashes to remind me of my age.

In a trip to Maliwada (Aurangabad, Maharashtra) in the Deccan plateau of India in 1977, I became clear that the category of personal achievement was simply a blooming into total self-expenditure regardless of outcome. A lifestyle of choice became mine for the rest of my life.

The intellectual clarity came when Apollo 8 sent back the Earthrise image from the lunarscape that turned into an icon of hope. There were no immigrants to planet Earth. I knew the existential reality of winning at the gates when biology in high school showed that of the 200 million sperms my Dad shared with my Mom each time they got cozy, I was the one—the only one—that made it to the egg! And that was only half of the story.

The egg that received the sperm did not automatically allow the first arrival to fertilize it into an ovum, creating in nine months the wonder of wonder (WOW) that was I. It chose. Anyone still striving to prove one's self through their worth from achievement needs to appropriate the undeniable reality that at the moment of conception, one is already conceived FREE and a WINNER!

After India, I took the four ancient Hindu phases to mark life's journey, parceled out in increments of 20 years. It fitted my life; I was barely 20 when I got on an American President Line that took me for 20 days from Manila to Hong Kong, Yokohama, Honolulu, and San Francisco, formally starting my adulthood and a journey of self-expenditure.

I parceled out my chosen 86 years in increments of 17 years, five phases in all that made the completion of the fourth phase at 68, and year 2014 at 69 the start of the last phase of graciously dying toward a terminus on Dec. 15, 2031.

Meeting with resource management consultants in the Visayas and Mindanao, I was called "Dr." Vergara on the assumption that I held a Ph.D. to my credit. A U.P. Los Baños colleague suggested that I came to campus so his wife who heads the sociology department could confer an honorary degree.

WOW. What a head-trip.

On the first of August, auspicious on Tinian in 1945, I wailed my first when *Little Boy* was "born" to be flown over Japan six days later, exploding its uranium mushroom over Hiroshima that snuffed the breath of thousands in a flash!

My father was steeped on the triune personae of reality, its trustworthiness *(the Father),* of total expenditure demonstrated in the messianic role of Jesus *(the Christ),* and the lifestyle of freedom willed by the wholesome spirit *(Holy Spirit).* In the context of the Earthrise that slayed all the inherited notions of loyalties to clan, race, and nation, I was liberated into immanent metaphor, though the spirit reality stayed the same.

After the '60s slaying of the god-metaphor, of fanatics' abuse of messianic roles, I nursed a solitary soul while I build the road I traveled into phases of existence. I did not feather the bed of pensions but its absence to rely on only makes a WOW on the journey! We are wished to journey on!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

This time it's for real?

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Haidee V. Eugenio covered politics, mmigration, environment, business and other news beats as a reporter for Saipan Tribune *and other news media in the CNMI for 16 years.*

Imagine tearing into pieces more than 200,000 illegal cigarette sticks with your gloved hands, then soaking the cigarettes in water to make sure they won't be distributed, sold, and smoked. CNMI Customs Services Division personnel painstakingly did exactly that early last year.

Sure, there are faster ways to dispose of illegal cigarettes or any counterfeit luxury products but at the time, that was the surest way to make sure efforts and time that Customs spent in intercepting illegal items at ports of entry won't be wasted, given the agency's limited resources.

At the time, Customs had no more space to safely store ready-for-disposal illegal cigarettes even as they were waiting for the incinerator to become available to burn them. And even if the incinerator was available to dispose of the confiscated cigarettes in just a few minutes as opposed to days of manually breaking them into pieces to render them unusable, Customs Director Joe Mafnas said the agency had no funds to pay for incineration service.

That's more than a year ago. Customs had offered ways to address the matter but Capital Hill has been slow to act on the idea of a bill that would allow Customs, for example, to immediately impose fines of $50 to $2,500 on those bringing in more than the allowed number of legal cigarettes and those bringing in illegal cigarettes such as those that do not have English labels. This immediate imposition of fines and taxing more cigarettes would generate additional revenue and should also be able to help Customs dispose of confiscated items.

Moreover, Customs—as a law enforcement and tax enforcement agency rolled into one and despite repeated request for more funds to hire more inspectors and buy or repair X-rays—has always been underfunded along with other agencies and obligations.

But elected officials will make you believe they are willing and able to give Customs more funding, especially after every major bust including Customs' interception of some $4.2 million worth of methamphetamine or "ice" in a 40-foot container from China on July 17.

"This [the drug bust] makes it more reasonable for us to give the Customs more tools to prevent drugs from coming in the CNMI," acting governor Ralph DLG Torres said in last week's news briefing about the confiscation of what officials touted as "the largest drug bust in CNMI history." That's about 12 kilos or 23.5 lbs of "ice" worth some $4.2 million.

Customs requested a $2.148-million budget for fiscal year 2016, but the Inos-Torres administration gave the agency just $1.2 million. The House of Representatives, except for one or two members, went with the administration's Customs budget.

This is the same set of lawmakers, along with their counterparts in the Senate, that wrestle over funds for special interest derbies, annual festivals without demanding accountability, fix roads leading to their aunt or grandma's house, build more school bus stops than needed, and buy lawn mowers almost every year for their precinct schools.

While more funds do not necessarily guarantee Customs will intercept more illegal drugs or illegal cigarettes, it will enable the agency to hire and train a decent number of required personnel and acquire an X-ray and other tools that will complement manual cargo and passenger checks.

Some lawmakers want Customs to look for other sources of funding such as federal grants and portions of the hotel occupancy tax that was raised from 10 percent to 15 percent mainly to fund CNMI tourism marketing and destination enhancement. Customs has yet to find out whether the latter is even allowable or feasible.

Customs' recent drug bust at the seaport means there's $4.2 million worth of "ice" that will not find their way to CNMI neighborhoods. Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero himself said this means DPS will "not collect" this amount of drugs on the islands.

Law enforcement, public health, public education, and other critical resources that could have been used to address the menace of a $4.2 million "ice" on the streets could instead go toward other critical needs instead such as funding the hospital. Hiring more government administrative staffers, special assistants for just about everything and more relatives with no relevant skills isn't one of them.

The "ice epidemic," as officials call it, is nothing new in the CNMI. Federal and local reports show that in fiscal year 1992, there was $437,866 worth of "ice" confiscated. In fiscal 1993, the confiscated "ice" was worth $116,240. Then in fiscal 1994, the amount of "ice" seized was over $3.028 million. There was a functioning X-ray at the time to help Customs.

Other reports claimed that Saipan is slowly turning into a major importer of "ice" with Customs reporting to have confiscated over $2.5 million worth of highly-prohibited drugs in 1998 alone. The U.S. National Drug Intelligence Center, in an October 2003 report on the CNMI, said the DEA/CNMI Task Force seized a total of 25 kilograms of "ice" from 1996 through February 2002. We can go on and on with statistics but the point is "ice" continues to be brought in, and it's up to the CNMI to more efficiently prevent them from finding their way into streets.

As for the recent major drug bust, the case is still ongoing so the seized "ice" still cannot be disposed of. Whether it is currently with Customs for safekeeping or with DPS evidence room that the Office of the Public Auditor has repeatedly found to be unsafe is another matter.

It would be a shame if at least a portion of the Customs-seized $4.2 million "ice" goes missing and eventually find their way to individual homes, neighborhoods, businesses, and schools.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A $19 trillion gift horse or an idiot mentality

Yes, the marijuana industry—with businesses now being called "cannabusinesses" (cannabis industry business)—is no longer projected in billions but is projected to be the biggest financial transformation in America since the Internet and is projected to be worth more than the Internet by 2019, at a value of $19 trillion! The cartels are already complaining about losing the marijuana business to states! This is the true reality of the gift horse we are staring in the face with legalization. I used the term idiot for those who are against trying legalization because that is what they are calling presidential candidate Gov. Chris Christie, the newfound drug warrior who everyone knows is too late to stop pot. I'm just glad to know there are leaders on the Hill who are not idiots and know we must try legalization when it is as simple as accepting the gift and freedom to pursue legalization of marijuana which is a genuine gift from the federal government courtesy of our President!

Experts, and I do mean real financial experts and economists, are calling the cannabis industry the single largest business opportunity in the history of capitalism. *The Economist* is calling it "transformative" but you›ll probably just call it «how I made my millions» unless you are one of my idiot critics who are blind and ignorant to the realities of marijuana and the cannabis industry that will continue to grow and spread with or without the inclusion of the CNMI. So do we continue to stare a gift horse in the mouth or do we take the gift and enjoy it?

Now if there is a better idea out there on how to live with and how to deal with marijuana in our society other than by legalization, I will be glad to listen. But I think most of us now know that common sense tells us it is time to stop kidding ourselves and to face the true realities of marijuana being our least problem when compared to alcohol, tobacco and "ice"! It's really idiotic to fight against legal marijuana, which can actually deter the use of alcohol, tobacco and "ice," unlike the lying politically motivated myth that was *told* and *sold* that marijuana is a gateway drug when it was really the criminalizing of marijuana that *opened* the gates for the hard drugs. Marijuana will actually cause a *decrease* in the use of alcohol and "ice" and it is the least of our problems when it comes to social vices with the undeniable potential for lucrative financial rewards from a legal cannabis industry. The CNMI would literally be idiotic to continue wasting revenues and resources to fight against marijuana given the realities and that most states are now legalizing it because all the bad myths about marijuana have literally been destroyed. We should be trying to make money through legalization to help DPS who is literally begging for revenues so they can be better equipped to fight the real drug ("ice") and crimes like robberies and murder driven by "ice"!

I'm sure many citizens in the community will want to thank those on the Hill for continuing to work toward legalization because the CNMI would look like a real idiot compared to Guam and other states to have come so close to legalization with the Senate hearings that clearly revealed an overwhelming support for full legalization, only to miss the darn flight for prosperity, standing around looking the gift horse of legalization in the mouth. It truly seems like we are on the right track to full legalization given the growing support on the Hill since the Senate hearings and the only questions may be how much money can we make and what to do with all the money that will literally be falling from the sky with tourist arrivals skyrocketing. Thank you senators and representatives for keeping the hope of legalization alive and well! Legalization is coming soon!

Speaking of idiotic mentality, it reminds me that we must continue to pray for Francisco Agulto who seems to think his quest to prove plagiarism and his knowledge of Macbeth was more important than what my letter was actually about—improving our politics and politicians. Readers already know from Francisco's history of destructive rock throwing that he would us anything to throw at me. But I wonder what Francisco will look up to find wrong with this letter because only a real idiot would try to find a way to fight an industry that will be worth in the trillions, especially when wisdom and logic tells us that we will have to deal with and live with marijuana, legal or not, forever! Only a person who is not fully educated about marijuana would want to maintain a war against marijuana legalization, so if you are against legalization, Francisco, you may need to get educated before you throw another rock at me! I think most readers will agree that smart people care more about fixing our politics and how to get a piece of the trillion dollar cannabis industry pie and to hell with the idiotic foolishness about Macbeth and plagiarism. Oh, I almost forgot, here's your rock back, Francisco, and thanks for the platform and the laughs!

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

WHEN

From Page 10

masculinity behind. The last may seem ridiculous, but my ex has a relative who puts the transformation firmly on me.

One of my trans friends once said it takes about two years post-surgery for the new person to truly settle into herself. It's proved true in my experience. But it was an arduous journey. While I was grieving, Maura was celebrating.

She joyfully shared every increase in bra cup size, every time the electrolysis lady reached another milestone and every time there was another step toward legal or physical womanhood. And while that happy dance happened to the right of me, on the left side, my heart ached, and she was oblivious to the pain. I found out on a summer night, a Thursday, that my husband was gone, but he actually disappeared over and over in painful little moments for months.

Now Kris Jenner and her children have joined the club: those who have lost husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers in a way that can only compare to death, but isn't. All we can do is manage the pain, ignore the wide-eyed stares and inconsiderate comments, and hope for grace and serenity. We are forced to applaud with so many others what it takes to come out as trans, to live an authentic life. But only we know the courage it takes to redraw what gets erased.

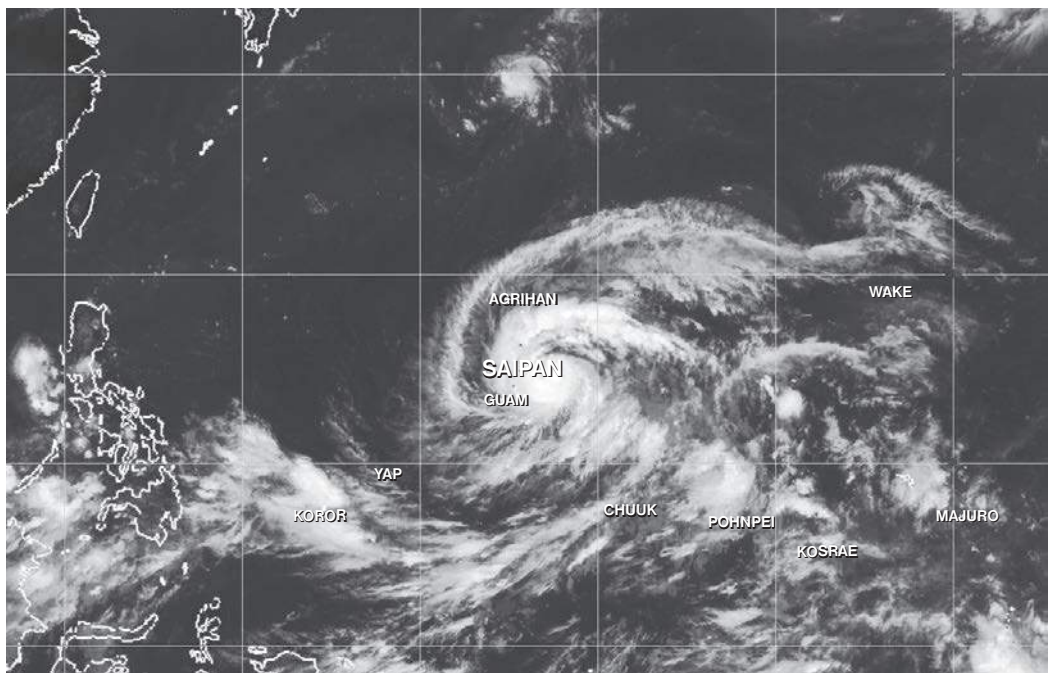
Lisa Jaffe Hubbell is a Seattle writer who specializes in covering health and healthcare. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Damaging winds. South winds 35 to 45 mph decreasing to 25 to 35 mph in the afternoon.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲84° ▼74°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Soudelor (13W) is centered 210 miles east of Guam near 15N148E moving west at 12 mph with maximum sustained winds of 60 mph. Heavy rain and isolated thunderstorms associated with Soudelor are found between 10N and 22N from 145E to 155E. For more information on Tropical Storm Soudelor, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A monsoon trough stretches eastward from 11N130E through Tropical Storm Soudelor then turns southeastward through a weak circulation south of Majuro near 1N178E. Low-level convergence along and south of the trough is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the Republic of Palau between 5N and 12n from 130E to 135E across Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae states between 2N and 10N from 135E to 165E. An area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of the trough can be found near Majuro and Kwajalein between 7N and 11N from 168E to 174E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲61	▼48
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼69
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼79
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼76
London	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼59
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼66
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91	▼75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲55	▼47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼77
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼75
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲94	▼79
Paris	Showers	▲78	▼57
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼75
Rome	Sunny	▲93	▼74
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼58
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼58
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲88	▼77
Tokyo	Sunny	▲93	▼79
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲96	▼75

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:46 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
10:05 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
4:58 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.2 Feet
1:26 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:00 AM	6:47 PM
Tuesday	6:01 AM	6:46 PM
Wednesday	6:01 AM	6:46 PM
Thursday	6:01 AM	6:45 PM
Friday	6:01 AM	6:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:05 PM	8:28 AM
Tuesday	9:53 PM	9:28 AM
Wednesday	10:41 PM	10:27 AM
Thursday	11:30 PM	11:25 AM
Friday		12:22 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 2, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	4, 5
7C3401	3:15pm	7:35pm	3, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/701	2:25am	11:05am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/701	3:20am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/721	2:25am	11:50am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:20am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	8:45am	2:15pm	3, 5, 6
7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ6053	7:55pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/6053	12:15pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	1:50pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/6053	1:10pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:35pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

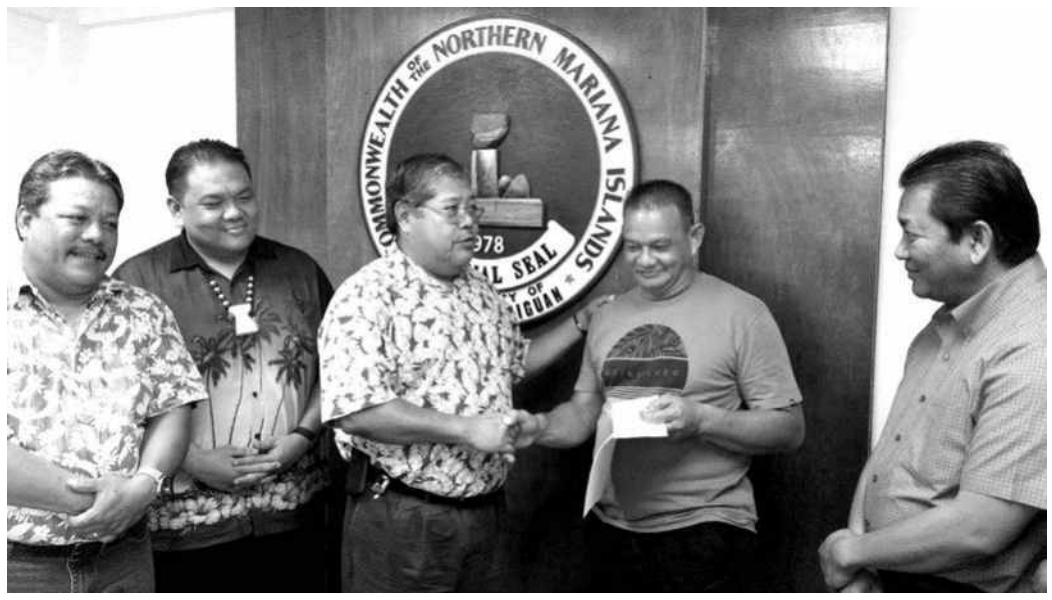
SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

4 Tinian retirees receive long awaited bonuses



Four former CNMI government employees from various government agencies on Tinian receive their long awaited 30-percent bonuses on Thursday at the Tinian Mayor's Office conference room.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Four former CNMI government employees from various government agencies on Tinian received their long awaited 30-percent bonuses on Thursday at the Tinian Mayor's Office conference room.

Vicente Cing, Eugenio Villagomez, Ireneo Ignacio, and Enriquita Dela Cruz all received their bonuses. Most of these former employees retired over 10 years ago and have been awaiting their bonuses all this time.

The bonuses were made possible by a Tinian Legislative Delegation appropriation that was subsequently approved by Gov. Eloy S. Inos. Tinian Local Law 19-3 appropriated $50,000 for the payment of 30-percent bonuses owed to former Tinian employees. These retirees were assured that they would be paid a 30-percent bonus for opting to retire early in an effort to save the government money.

"On behalf of the delegation and leadership of Tinian, we are proud to secure and appropriate funding to pay these former Tinian government employees. I hope you consider this as a token of our appreciation for your service to the people of Tinian," said Tinian Delegation chair Sen. Francisco M. Borja.

Also present were Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider, Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz, and Rep. Edwin P. Aldan. Also on hand to witness the handing over of checks were Tinian Municipal Council chair Raynaldo M. Cing, Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission chair Matthew C. Masga, and Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas. ***(Tinian Mayor's Office)***

Hocog introduced to CDA board

The Commonwealth Development Authority has a new board member from Rota.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos in a June 29 letter nominated Aubry M. Hocog to serve on the CDA board of directors representing Rota. Hocog is also Rota's special assistant for programs and grants.

With Hocog, the board regained quorum.

The CDA board lost quorum after Gov. Eloy S. Inos withdrew his nomination of a board member Tom Quitugua in June.

In a June 10 letter to Senate President Victor B. Hocog (Ind-Rota), Inos did not state his reasons in withdrawing the nomination of Tom Glenn A. Quitugua to the CDA board.

He stated, "It is with deep regret to inform you that I am withdrawing [Quitugua's] appointment at this time."

Just last April 15, Inos wrote to re-nominate Quitugua to serve on the CDA board representing the first senatorial district, or Rota.

The appointment had yet to be advised or consented by the Senate. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

DFEMS inspects 13 more poker arcades

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services conducted another fire code enforcement operation of 13 other poker establishments on Saipan last Tuesday.

DFEMS spokesman Derek Gersonde said the establishments were found to have minor discrepancies, but no poker arcade was shut down.

Gersonde said some of the minor fire code violations were expiration of fire permit, obstruction of exit route, fire extinguisher not recently serviced, using ceiling as storage, exposed electrical wires, and excessive use of multiple plugs.

The establishments were given 15 to 30 days to correct the violations.

Gersonde warned that if the discrepancies are not corrected during follow-up inspection by fire prevention officers, the establishment would be issued a temporary stop order and would remain closed until they contact the prevention office to make an appointment for inspection.

The inspected arcades were High Roller I and 5 in Garapan, Blue Sky Poker in Chalan Piao, DKK Poker in Koblerville, Moon Night Poker in Chalan Kanoa, Dollar Poker in Garapan, 888 Poker in Garapan, LA Poker in Garapan, Best Poker in Garapan, High Roller 7 Poker in Gualo Rai, Piano Poker in Garapan, Capitol Poker in Sadog Tasi, and Yuta Poker in San Roque.

Last week, DFEMS fire inspection strike force conducted a fire code enforcement operation at 12 poker arcades on Saipan. The 12 establishments were found to have few minor discrepancies but no arcade was shut down. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd
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A minimum of 3 years work related experience required with a successful sales record. Ideally with an Associate's Degree in Sales & Marketing plus experience in F&B, menu preparation & costing. Proficient in MS Excel, Word, Outlook. Ability to speak Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese or Korean an advantage. Must have a valid driver's license and a clean driving record. Availability to work evenings, holidays and weekends is also required.

Interested applicants must have their own reliable transportation. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

ACCOUNTANT

BA in Accounting and a minimum of 3 years experience is required, including preparation of financial statements, processing accounts receivables & payables and other general accounting procedures. Must possess work-related skills, have knowledge & experience in purchasing, inventory control and bank reconciliation. Proficient in various computer software: MS Excel, Word, Outlook and ACCPAC/Sage or similar accounting system. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Interested applicants may submit an application and/or resume at our Saipan office located in the C.T.S.I. building, Lower Base, by August 14, 2015. Applications may also be sent to:info@dqsaipan.com. The successful applicant will be required to provide a police clearance.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-15-IFB-009

FITME PLACE ROAD IMPROVEMENT, SAIPAN, CNMI

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Fitme Place Road Improvement, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **July 27, 2015** at Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capital Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **August 13, 2015**, 9:00a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **August 21, 2015** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho , Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders knows to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or it the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgement of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW-15-IFB-009**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **September 01, 2015**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **September 01, 2015** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **September 01, 2015** and must be received no later than **September 11, 2015**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, **September 14, 2015**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on **September 01, 2015**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§ 70-30.3-245.** The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a.) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b.) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1.) Cash
2.) US Gov't. Securities
3.) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4.) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5.) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completing of this project is **Ninety (90) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice of Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred Fifty Dollars (US$150.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfections in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quality, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

/s/ JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

Business

From rents to haircuts, Americans start to feel price hikes

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Apartment rents are up. So are prices for restaurant meals, haircuts, gym memberships and a cup of coffee.

For American consumers who have become used to flat or even falling prices for several years, an unfamiliar sight has emerged in many corners of the economy: Inflation is ticking up.

The price increases remain modest. And in many cases, they're canceled out by price declines for other items that are keeping overall inflation historically low.

Yet the stepped-up price tags for a range of consumer items are the largest since the Great Recession ended six years ago. They actually reflect a healthier economy. Many businesses have finally grown confident enough to pass their own higher costs on to consumers without fear of losing customers.

Inflation as measured by the consumer price index has barely risen in the past 12 months, mostly because cheaper gas has held down the index.

But prices are rising. If you exclude food and energy, which tend to fluctuate sharply, "core" inflation has risen 2.3 percent at an annual rate in the past three months.

■ Rents are moving up.

The biggest driver of inflation this year has been residential rents. They climbed 3.5 percent in June from a year earlier, according to government data, the fifth straight month with an annual gain of that size. That is the fastest yearly pace in six years.

AP

In this July 16, 2015, file photo, a woman walks out of a Starbucks Coffee with a beverage in hand in New York.

Americans are overwhelmingly choosing to rent rather than buy when they first form their own households, government data show. That has driven apartment vacancy rates to the lowest level in 25 years and pushed up rents.

■ Eating out is more expensive.

The prices of restaurant meals are also rising more quickly, picking up 3 percent in June from 12 months earlier.

Higher food costs are helping drive the increase. Coffee prices jumped 6.1 percent in January from 12 months earlier, the most in nearly three years. At Starbucks, the price of a cup of coffee went up between 5 cents and 20 cents last month.

And beef prices have soared nearly 11 percent in the past year, which has led Chipotle to raise prices for steak and its beef barbacoa by an average of about 30 cents per entree, the company says.

Labor costs are also rising as a growing number of states and cities boost the minimum wage. Chipotle just raised prices 10 percent in San Francisco partly because of that city's minimum wage increase.

■ Haircut prices surge.

Haircut prices jumped 1.6 percent in June, the biggest monthly jump in the 62 years that the government has tracked the data. Over the past year, they've gone up 2.8 percent, the largest year-over-year gain since 2008.

That's no surprise to Chrissie Crosby, a retired government worker in Alexandria, Virginia. She says her preferred hair salon has started charging nearly $30 for a shampoo, blow dry and haircut, up from $22.

"It used to be a convenient place for a trim, because it was inexpensive, but it's no longer very inexpensive," she said.

■ "Stickier" prices are rising

Economists expect the price increases to continue, in part because they're occurring mostly in services, whose prices tend to be comparatively stable. Economists call these "sticky" prices.

Sticky prices don't change that often. Utilities typically must ask regulators to approve price increases, for example, and most restaurants don't want to frequently reprint menus. But once they do start to rise, they are slow to change course.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta maintains an index of sticky prices, which has risen 3 percent at an annual rate in the past three months, the most since the recession ended.

Owners turning to auctions to sell high-end properties

EDWARDS, Colo. (AP)—Bob and Karin Weber built their dream home 14 years ago, creating an 11,000-square-foot mountaintop oasis. Now that the couple is in their 70s, they're ready to downsize and possibly move to nearby Vail.

After trying the traditional list-and-wait method of selling the 35-acre Elk Ridge Ranch, the Webers are putting their estate up for auction, hoping for a streamlined process and a more lucrative result.

Once considered a last resort to dump a property that was distressed or couldn't sell, auctions have become a viable marketing option for selling luxury homes, mirroring common marketing techniques for high-end art, antiques and collectibles. There are still plenty of foreclosed luxury homes being sold off at cut-rate prices, but the perception of selling a luxury home via auction has started to change.

With sales of luxury homes and prices on the rise, sellers can use an auction to control the structure of the sale, set a firm deadline for the transaction and hope a bidding war will send the price higher. The buyers get an opportunity to tour the property before putting in a bid, unlike most foreclosure auctions, and have the opportunity to land a deal.

Properties costing more than $1 million represent about 3 percent of the total housing market, according to the National Association of Realtors, and those doing luxury auctions are even smaller.

"There aren't that many of us out there in this luxury real estate marketing world who are consistently doing high-end luxury home auctions around the country," said Trayor Lesnock, founder and president of Platinum Luxury Auctions. "We're definitely a niche market."

Platinum Luxury Auctions' sales volume more than doubled from 2011 through 2014 and the average sale price went from about $4.4 million last year to nearly $5 million so far this year.

Chicago-based Sheldon Good & Company, the brokerage firm selling the Webers' home, has seen auction sales rise from 32 in 2010 to 62 last year. Sheldon Good has held 36 auctions so far in 2015 and expects more than 70 by year's end.

Overall, sales of homes $1 million or more are up 8 percent from a year ago, according to the National Association of Realtors. Homes in the $250,000-$500,000 range had the largest jump, climbing 17.4 percent from May last year.

It can be a gamble for the sellers. If the brokerage company sets the minimum price too high, no one will show up for the auction. Too low, the property could sell well below market value.

Sheldon Good recently sold a house next to the 12th fairway of the Pebble Beach Golf Links for $14 million from a starting bid of $6.9 million. On the other hand, a seller in Seattle who previously had a home on the market for $25 million ended up selling for $12 million after no buyers were willing to pay the minimum auction bid of $15 million. Sellers can only back out of an auction if their minimum bid isn't met. Otherwise, they are locked in.

Proposing changes as a newbie

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. *Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.*

Question: Since joining this company a few weeks ago, I have noticed a lot of areas that need improvement. However, I'm not sure how honest I should be in sharing my views with management. In my previous job, I was always very open about my opinions. If I saw a problem, I simply described it to my boss and proposed a solution, but I'm not sure this would be welcomed in my new organization. What do you think?

Answer: As a newbie, you are wise to be cautious about offering suggestions too quickly. Many recent hires unintentionally offend their new employer by criticizing current practices or making comparisons with their previous workplace. This is an easy mistake to make, because new arrivals are viewing everything with fresh eyes.

At the same time, however, you do want to give management the benefit of your experience, since that is presumably why you were hired. The secret is to present your ideas in a way that sounds respectful and helpful, not arrogant and critical.

To accomplish this, you must first take the time to understand why things are the way they are. If you have changed industries or moved to a different area, there will be a lot to learn about your new environment. You must also familiarize yourself with the company's history, culture, and leadership style.

When you do propose a change, make it a suggestion, not a directive. If you firmly declare that the company must get rid of its outdated software, you will sound inappropriately dictatorial. But if you offer to arrange a demonstration of the latest technology, you will appear to be helpful and forward-thinking.

To reduce defensive reactions to your suggestions, try using this simple three-step formula: make a factual observation about the current practice, ask a question to understand the past, then explain the benefits of your idea.

For example, you might start by saying "I've noticed that the shipping department uses a rather high-priced carrier. Was this vendor chosen for a particular reason?" If the justification seems less than compelling, offer your proposal: "I believe we could greatly reduce our costs by using a different carrier. Would you be interested in reviewing some other vendors?"

Finally, avoid making comparative comments that start with "at my last company". If you say this too often, people will begin to wonder why you didn't stay there.

Q: Is an employer allowed to distribute your personal information to the entire office? My boss recently sent out a list that included everyone's home address, spouse's name, cell phone number, and emergency contacts. He never asked our permission to do this.

A: Not being an attorney, I can't answer your question from a legal perspective. However, from a management perspective, I can tell you that sharing employees' personal information without their consent is completely inappropriate. Your clueless boss may have had good intentions, but he apparently doesn't realize that many people like to keep their personal lives private.

Nation

Obama to require steeper emissions cuts from US power plants

NEW YORK (AP)—President Barack Obama will impose even steeper cuts on greenhouse gas emissions from U.S. power plants than previously expected, senior administration officials said Sunday, in what the president called the most significant step the U.S. has ever taken to fight global warming.

A year after proposing unprecedented carbon dioxide limits, the Obama administration was poised to finalize the rule at a White House event on Monday. Obama, in a video posted to Facebook, said the limits were backed up by decades of data and facts showing that without tough action, the world will face more extreme weather and escalating health problems like asthma.

"Climate change is not a problem for another generation," Obama said. "Not anymore."

In his initial proposal, Obama had mandated a 30 percent nationwide cut in carbon dioxide emissions by 2030, compared to 2005 levels. The final version, which follows extensive consultations with environmental groups and the energy industry, will require a 32 percent cut instead, according to Obama administration officials, who weren't authorized to comment by name and requested anonymity.

Opponents said they would sue the government immediately. They also planned to ask the courts to put the rule on hold while legal challenges play out.

The final version also gives states an additional two years—until 2022—to comply, officials said, yielding to complaints that the original deadline was too soon. States will also have until 2018 instead of 2017 to submit their plans for how they intend to meet their targets.

But the administration will attempt to incentivize states to take action earlier by offering credits to states that boost renewable sources like wind and solar in 2020 and 2021, officials said.

The focus on renewables marks a significant shift from the earlier version that sought to accelerate the ongoing shift from coal-fired power to natural gas, which emits far less carbon dioxide. The final rule aims to keep the share of natural gas in the nation's power mix the same as it is now.

The stricter limits included in the final plan were certain to incense energy industry advocates who had already balked at the more lenient limits in the proposed plan. But the Obama administration said its tweaks would cut energy costs and address concerns about power grid reliability.

The Obama administration previously predicted the emissions limits will cost up to $8.8 billion annually by 2030, although it says those costs will be far outweighed by health savings from fewer asthma attacks and other benefits. The actual price won't be clear until states decide how they'll reach their targets, but the administration has projected the rule would raise electricity prices about 4.9 percent by 2020 and prompt coal-fired power plants to close.

Families struggle 10 years after Ohio Marines killed in Iraq

CINCINNATI (AP)—Some people look surprised and tell him they just can't believe it's been 10 years already. For Keith Wightman, time hasn't passed quickly at all.

It ticks by slowly as he thinks every day of the loss of his only son—gazing at the spruce tree planted a decade ago in his yard and now marked with a cross, plaque and spotlight. He's seen his son's high school friends and former teammates start careers and families while he daydreams about what might have been for Lance Corporal Brett Wightman, whose future was blown away with those of 10 other members of the Columbus, Ohio-based Lima Company in Iraq on Aug. 3, 2005.

"I'm going to tell you, he would have been somebody," Wightman said. "He had a great spirit. He was one of the good kids."

Wightman promised that his dead son wouldn't be forgotten, a pledge that other families of the lost members of Lima Company have also taken to heart, establishing scholarship programs, foundations and other benefits to help others in the names of the young men—sons, brothers, husbands, fathers—lost that summer. Two memorial events are scheduled for this month for the 23 people Lima Company lost over a 5-month period of 2005.

In this Saturday, July 25, 2015 photo Keith Wightman shows a frame picture of his son Lance Cpl. Brett Wightman at his home in Washington Court House, Ohio. AP

Aug. 3 was the company's darkest day.

Wightman remembers vividly, "like yesterday," the early morning hours he spent looking at a moonlit sky wondering what his son was up to. Lance Cpl. Wightman had gone on a mission to flush out enemy combatants who had attacked six Marines two days earlier when his amphibious assault vehicle rumbled onto explosives. Eleven members of Lima Company and three other Marines were killed along with an Iraqi interpreter.

ACROSS THE NATION

Firefighter killed, hundreds flee as California blazes burn

LOWER LAKE, Calif. (AP)—Blazes raging in forests and woodlands across California have taken the life of a firefighter and forced hundreds of people to flee their homes as crews continue to battle the flames from the air and the ground. Twenty-three large fires, many sparked by lightning strikes, were burning across Northern California on Saturday, said Daniel Berlant, spokesman for the state Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Some 9,000 firefighters were working to subdue them, something made incredibly difficult by several years of drought that have dried out California. The fires prompted Gov. Jerry Brown to declare a state of emergency for California and activate the California National Guard to help with disaster recovery.

Chief insists officer fatally shot teen in self-defense

SENECA, S.C. (AP)—A South Carolina police chief says he will not release the name of an officer who fatally shot a 19-year-old man in a Hardee's parking lot, insisting the officer acted in self-defense. While the attorney for the teen's parents disputed the officer's account, Seneca Chief John Covington reiterated Friday the department considers the officer a victim of attempted murder. "We feel that releasing his name may possibly subject the officer and family to harassment, intimidation or abuse," Covington said in a written statement released to the media. Zachary Hammond was shot twice about 8:20 p.m. on July 26.

NAACP's 'Journey for Justice' protest march begins in Selma

SELMA, Ala. (AP)—Protest marches have been part of Selma's civil rights fabric since 1965, but an 860-mile trek to Washington had a minister leaning on the Bible for heavenly support Saturday. The Rev. Theresa Dear noted the magnitude of what lies ahead, but never doubted that the "40-day-and-40-night" march will be successful. Dear told the Montgomery Advertiser just before the march began at the Edmund Pettus Bridge, "We are doing something of biblical proportions." Sponsored by the NAACP, "America's Journey for Justice" is scheduled to extend through eastern seaboard states before ending in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 15. More than 200 supporters took part in the first leg of a march that will be about 16 times the 54-mile distance covered by voting rights activists in 1965.

Biden associates resume discussion about presidential run

WASHINGTON (AP)—Vice President Joe Biden's associates have resumed discussions about a 2016 presidential run after largely shelving such deliberations during his son's illness and following his death earlier this year. But Biden has yet to tell his staff whether he will run or personally ask them to do any planning for a potential campaign, according to several people close to the vice president. Recent conversations between Biden's associates and Democratic donors and operatives have led to speculation that Biden will challenge frontrunner Hillary Rodham Clinton for the party's nomination, and individuals close to Biden have started looking into what options might be available to him if he were to run, such as potential staff in Iowa and the filing deadlines for entering the Democratic field.

RACING EXTINCTION AP

Large images of endangered species are projected on the south facade of The Empire State Building, Saturday, Aug. 1, 2015, in New York. The large scale projections are in part inspired by and produced by the filmmakers of an upcoming documentary called "Racing Extinction." Organizers say the Saturday night event was a first-of-its-kind live video projection. It drew large crowds of spectators, many taking photos with their smartphones.

Asia

Aquino chooses Roxas as PH presidential candidate

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Benigno Aquino III said Friday he had picked Interior Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II as the administration candidate to succeed him in elections next year.

Aquino made the announcement in the same meeting hall where Roxas declared six years ago that he was shelving his own presidential ambitions to give way to the son of the late democracy icon Corazon Aquino.

The 58-year-old former congressman and senator said he was honored to be endorsed by Aquino as the standard bearer of the dominant Liberal Party.

The grandson and namesake of the Philippines' first post-World War II president promised to continue on the "straight path," Aquino's program to fight poverty and corruption.

Aquino said he picked Roxas because "he has the competence, he has no other boss except the people, who owes no one a debt of gratitude, who has no interest except the nation's."

AP

Interior Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II, right, chats with Philippine President Benigno Aquino III shortly after Aquino endorsed him as the administration's standard bearer for the May 2016 presidential elections, Friday, July 31, 2015 at the historic Club Filipino in suburban San Juan, east of Manila, Philippines.

Aquino cannot run again because the constitution sets a single six-year term for the president and vice president.

Hundreds of party members and supporters cheered Aquino's announcement in the historic Cory Aquino Freedom Hall where his mother took her oath as president after the "people power" revolt ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

"This is such a huge honor," Roxas said. "With this endorsement, you are also endorsing the dreams and the power of each of the 100 million Filipinos.... I will never deviate from the 'straight path.'"

Roxas was Aquino's running mate in the 2010 national elections but was defeated in a separate election by Jejomar Binay, who is now under investigation for alleged corruption during his term as mayor of Makati City, metropolitan Manila's business district.

Binay has already said he will run for president next year, and recent surveys put him ahead of Roxas despite the corruption allegations.

The independent pollster Social Weather Stations said a survey in June showed Roxas in third place behind Senator Grace Poe, who was in the top spot, and Binay. An Aquino ally, Poe has not said if she will run for president and has reportedly been asked by Aquino to run in the vice presidential election.

Poe is a daughter of the late popular action movie star Fernando Poe, who lost the fraud-marred 2004 presidential election won by Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Aquino's predecessor who is in hospital detention on charges of corruption and election sabotage.

China accuses US of 'militarizing' South China Sea

BEIJING (AP)—China's Defense Ministry on Thursday accused the U.S. of militarizing the South China Sea as Beijing makes increasingly bold moves to assert its claim to virtually all of the sea's waters, islands and reefs.

Spokesman Yang Yujun's remarks were prompted by comments last week from the head of the U.S. Pacific Command, Adm. Harry Harris, criticizing Chinese projects to build up islands in disputed waters.

Harris warned such work could undermine international norms that have long supported the global economy and political order.

Speaking at a monthly news conference, Yang said China rejected such claims totally and accused the U.S. of ulterior motives.

"The U.S. side disregards and distorts the facts and plays up China's military threat to sow discord between China and the littoral states in the South China Sea. We firmly oppose such actions," Yang said.

U.S. close-in reconnaissance of the Chinese armed forces, strengthened military alliances with the Philippines and others, and frequent military exercises are raising tensions and creating risks of incidents in the air and at sea, Yang said.

"The Chinese side expresses its serious concern over U.S. activities to militarize the South China Sea region," he said. "Such actions taken by the U.S. side would inevitably arouse suspicion from others that, does the U.S. want nothing better than chaos in the region?"

In response, State Department spokesman Mark Toner said Thursday that since the end of World War II, the U.S. has played a "critical role" in supporting the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific, which has been instrumental in the region's "remarkable growth." He called on South China Sea claimants to peacefully manage and resolve their disputes in accordance with international law.

China and five other claimants have competing claims to all or part of the South China Sea, home to rich fishing grounds, potentially significant mineral reserves and some of the world's most crucial shipping lanes.

Heavy rains in Myanmar cause more flooding; 9 dead

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Heavy rains in Myanmar have caused more flooding and left nine people dead, devastating several townships and forcing more than 18,000 people into temporary shelters, officials said Saturday.

Much of the country has been hit by flooding and landslides over the last few weeks. The government's Relief and Resettlement Department estimates that 110,000 people have been severely affected by the floods, particularly in the Sagaing region and Kachin and Shan states, accounting for 21 deaths in July.

On Saturday, local officials reported nine more deaths, most of them from a boat that capsized in Kachin. They said seven townships had been devastated by flooding.

President Thein Sein visited Kalay township in Sagaing, one of the four regions that were declared disaster zones on Friday.

Thein Sein had been coming under criticism, especially on social media, for not doing more to deal with the emergency.

On Thursday, he urged Cabinet ministers to go out into the field to supervise flood relief operations, saying that since July 16, some areas of the country had become inundated by heavy rains that destroyed farmland, roads, rail lines, bridges and houses. Roads from central to northern Myanmar have been especially affected.

An Information Ministry announcement late Friday said Thein Sen had issued an emergency declaration covering the Magway and Sagaing regions and Chin and Rakhine states, some of the hardest-hit areas. The announcement did not specify what practical measures would be taken.

There is particular concern about Rakhine, where a tropical storm was moving from neighboring Bangladesh. The situation in Rakhine is considered especially dangerous, because more than 100,000 internally displaced people who fled their homes due to civil conflict in recent years live in poorly built and badly situated camps.

ASIAN BRIEFS

21 feared dead in mudslide in India's remote northeast

GAUHATI, India (AP)—Twenty-one people were feared dead Saturday in a mudslide triggered by torrential monsoon rains in India's remote mountainous northeast region, police said. The mudslide occurred in Joumol, a village in Manipur state close to India's border with Myanmar, said police officer Herojit Singh. Police reinforcements were finding it difficult to reach the area which has been cut off by road because of heavy rains over the past three days, Singh said. He said that the rescuers would use helicopters to land in the area on Sunday after day-break. T.S. Warngam, a vice president of the United Naga Council, a civil society organization, said that 20 villagers were feared to have been swept away by the landslide and that one villager was rescued by other residents of the area. The village is 160 kilometers (100 miles) southwest of Imphal, the Manipur state capital. Landslides are common in India during the monsoon season, which stretches from June through September.

India, Bangladesh swap border enclaves, settle old dispute

NEW DELHI (AP)—Tens of thousands of stateless people who were stranded for decades along the poorly defined border between India and Bangladesh can finally choose their citizenship, as the two countries swapped more than 150 pockets of land at the stroke of midnight Friday to settle the demarcation line dividing them. Television images showed people bursting firecrackers and raising an Indian flag in the Masaldanga enclave, which became part of India. On the other side of the new border, thousands of people who have been living in the enclaves in Bangladesh cheered, danced and chanted "Bangladesh, Bangladesh." They lit 68 candles and released 68 balloons, then marched through the village of Dashiarchhara, highlighting that it took 68 years to settle the border dispute. The village in Kurigram district is 240 kilometers (150 miles) north of Dhaka, Bangladesh's capital. India's External Affairs Ministry described July 31 as a historic day for both India and Bangladesh as "it marks the resolution of a complex issue that has lingered since independence" from British colonialists in 1947.

Afghan Taliban issues statement quoting Haqqani group leader

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Afghan Taliban has issued a written statement purportedly quoting Jalaluddin Haqqani, the leader of the notoriously brutal Haqqani insurgent group, in an effort to quell rumors of his death. The statement, posted Sunday to the Taliban's website, quoted Haqqani mourning the loss of Mullah Mohammad Omar, the one-eyed leader of the group whose death the extremists confirmed last week. The Afghan government says Mullah Omar died in April 2013. The Taliban have announced that Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansoor is their new leader and released a purported audio statement from him Saturday. The statement released Sunday did not include any audio of Haqqani speaking to prove he is alive. Rumors of Haqqani's death have circulated and been denied by militants for the past year.

China to close Beijing's airports during military parade

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese authorities have announced they will close Beijing's two airports during a military parade next month to mark the anniversary of victory over Japan in World War II. Flights will be banned or diverted for three hours from 9:30 a.m. on Sept. 3. to enable the victory parade to pass off smoothly and ensure flights safety, the Civil Aviation Administration of China said in a statement Saturday. They affect Beijing Capital International Airport, the world's second-busiest by passenger traffic, and Nanyuan airport, a former military airfield. The lavish military parade is to feature aerial displays and China's latest weaponry. The display of armed might has put off some invited countries from attending given ongoing tensions between China and Japan over wartime history and competing claims to islands in the East China Sea. China's fast growing air travel market is the world's second biggest, but the heavy air traffic and tight control of airspace by the military have given it the world's worst record for flight delays.

World

Suspected Flight 370 wing flap arrives at French facility

BALMA, France (AP)—A wing flap suspected to be from the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 on Saturday arrived at a French military testing facility where it will be analyzed by experts.

After a 10-hour journey by road from Paris' Orly airport, a truck carrying the roughly 8-foot (2.44-meter) component known as a flaperon arrived at the DGA TA aeronautical testing site near Toulouse, accompanied by police motorcycles and a police car.

French aviation experts will try to establish whether the wreckage that was found on the Indian Ocean island Reunion comes from the Boeing 777 which disappeared on March 8, 2014, while en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people on board.

The experts, including a legal expert, will start their inquiry on Wednesday, according to the Paris prosecutor's office. On Monday, an investigating judge will meet with Malaysian authorities and representatives of the French aviation investigative agency, known as the BEA, according to a statement late Friday.

Air safety investigators, including one from Boeing, have identified the component as a flaperon from the trailing edge of a Boeing 777 wing, a U.S. official said. The official wasn't authorized to be publicly identified.

Flight 370 is the only missing 777 and many are convinced the flap comes from the ill-fated jet.

"In the aeronautic community there is no (doubt) on the issue of what the debris belongs to. We are all convinced that it belongs to this flight (370)," said aviation security expert Christophe Naudin on France's BFM-TV.

He said only three 777s have crashed since 2013 and the other two were in completely different locations.

"One is in the United States, one in Ukraine, and this one in the Indian Ocean," he said.

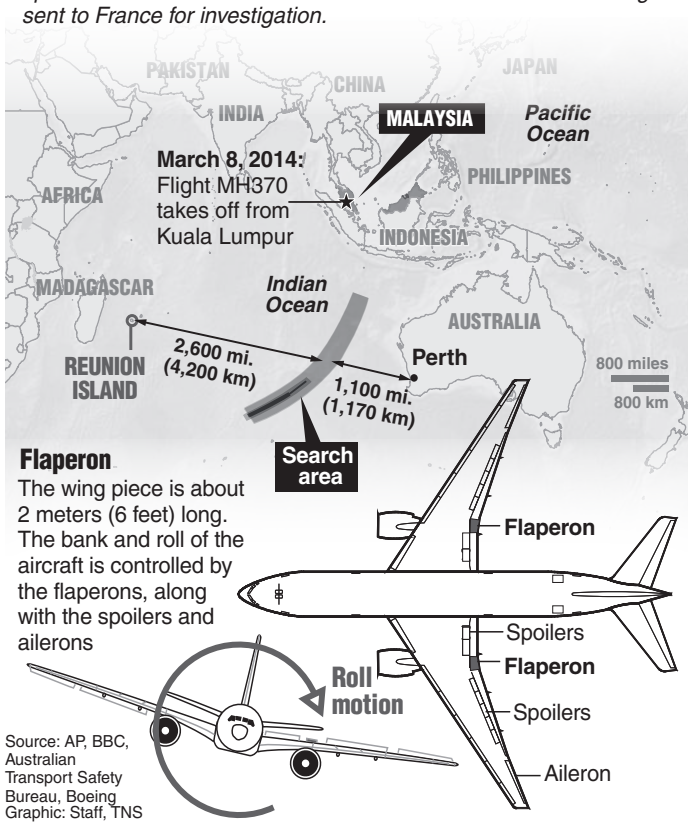
Under a microscope and expert eyes, the wing fragment that washed up on the beach of the volcanic island could yield clues not just to its path through the Indian Ocean, but also to what happened to the airplane.

Analysts at the French aviation laboratory hope to glean details from metal stress to see what caused the flap to break off, spot explosive or other chemical traces, and study the sea life that made its home on the wing to pinpoint where it came from.

Even if the piece is confirmed to be wreckage from Flight 370, there's no guarantee that investigators can find the plane's vital black box recorders or other debris. A multinational search effort has so far come up empty.

Possible MH370 wreckage found

A piece of a Boeing 777 wing called a flaperon was found washed up on an island in the western Indian Ocean. The debris is being sent to France for investigation.



Source: AP, BBC, Australian Transport Safety Bureau, Boeing
Graphic: Staff, TNS

2 soldiers dead, 24 wounded in suicide attack in Turkey

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Kurdish rebels on Sunday rammed an explosives-laden agricultural vehicle at a military police station in eastern Turkey, killing two soldiers and wounding 24 others, authorities said, amid a sharp escalation of violence between the government forces and the autonomy-seeking insurgents.

Militants of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, used two tons of explosives to attack the station on a highway near the town of Dogubayazit in Agri province, near Turkey's border with Iran, causing extensive damage to the building, the regional governor's office said in a statement. The wounded soldiers were hospitalized but there was no word on their conditions.

Violence has flared in Turkey in the past week, shattering a fragile peace process launched in 2012 with the Kurds. The government has conducted almost daily airstrikes at PKK bases in northern Iraq while the rebels have attacked Turkey's security forces. The airstrikes began as the U.S. and Turkey announced the outlines of a deal to help push the Islamic State group back from a strip of territory it controls along the Syrian-Turkish border, replacing it with more-moderate rebels backed by Washington and Ankara.

At least 24 people have been killed in the renewed violence in Turkey, most of them soldiers.

Turkey's state-run Anadolu Agency has claimed that some 260 rebels were killed in the air raids against PKK targets in northern Iraq.

The PKK has not reported on its casualties. Kurdish activists said, however, that the Turkish airstrikes had destroyed at least six homes in the town of Zargel on Saturday, killing at least eight civilians and wounding 12.

Iraq's Kurdish regional government called on the PKK to withdraw from Iraq's Kurdish territory to prevent civilian deaths amid the Turkish airstrikes, while condemning Turkey for bombing civilians. The regional government also called on both sides to resume peace talks.

Turkey said Saturday it had launched an investigation into the reported civilian deaths. It insisted that targets were attacked only after the military was fully satisfied that the areas were free of civilians. It also said the PKK at times uses civilians as human shields.

Mexico news photographer found slain in capital

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A photographer for the Mexican investigative magazine Proceso, who had fled his home state after being harassed, was among five people found slain early Saturday in an apartment in Mexico City, according to the magazine.

The body of Ruben Espinosa, who collaborated with Proceso and other media, was identified by a family member at the morgue Saturday afternoon, Proceso reported, adding that he had two gunshot wounds.

Espinosa had recently gone into self-exile from the Gulf coast state of Veracruz, where he felt under threat, according to Proceso. His family had lost contact with him on Friday and by Saturday the free speech advocacy group Article 19 had called on Mexican authorities to activate the protocols for locating a missing journalist.

He was found dead with four women, three of whom lived in the apartment in the middle-class Narvarte neighborhood near the center of the city, according to the Mexico City prosecutor's office. The fourth woman was a domestic employee, the prosecutor's statement said. It said identifications and cause of death were still being verified.

Veracruz has been a dangerous state for reporters. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, 11 journalists have been killed there since 2010, all under Gov. Javier Duarte, the most recent just a month ago. Two others, including Espinosa, were Veracruz journalists found dead outside of the state.

Article 19 on Saturday called the killing of Espinosa a new level of violence against journalists in Mexico, as he was first to be killed while in exile in Mexico City. Many reporters under threat in their home states have taken refuge in the capital, where the federal government has set up an agency to help such journalists.

The advocacy group said in an article that the killing occurred "without authorities charged with protecting journalists lifting a finger to help Espinosa."

Article 19 said it published an alert about Espinosa June 15 after he reported unknown people following him, taking his photograph and harassing him outside his home in Xalapa, the capital of Veracruz.

Topless protest in Canada urges women to 'bare with us'

AP

"Bare With Us" demonstrators gather at the Waterloo Town Square in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, on Saturday, Aug. 1, 2015.

WATERLOO, Ontario (AP)—Dozens of topless women—and men—attended a "Bare With Us" rally Saturday meant to educate the public about women's right to go shirtless if they choose.

The rally and march were organized by three sisters who were stopped by a police officer for biking topless a week ago.

Local media reports said people were waving banners and wearing body paint with messages including "everyone has the right to NOT be harassed" and "Bare With Us! They're just boobs!"

Musician Alysha Brilla said she and her sisters were not wearing shirts while cycling in Kitchener, Ontario, on July 24 when a male police officer drove up beside them and told them to cover up because it is the law.

Brilla said she told the officer he was wrong and that when she started filming the interaction on her cellphone, the officer said he had only wanted to check if the women had proper bells and lights on their bicycles.

Ontario women have had the right to go topless in public since 1996.

A similar incident in June garnered headlines after an 8-year-old was told by city staff in Guelph, Ontario, to cover up while she was in a wading pool wearing only a swim bottom.

Focus

CDC's top modeler makes estimates and courts controversy

AP
In this Friday, June 12, 2015 photo, Martin Meltzer stands in the Emergency Operations Center at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

By MIKE STOBBE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

This was, he said, a worst-case scenario. But Meltzer is the most famous disease modeler for the nation's pre-eminent public health agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. His estimate was promoted at high-level international meetings. It rallied nations to step up their efforts to fight the disease.

But the estimate proved to be off.

Way, way off.

Like, 65 times worse than what ended up happening.

Some were not surprised. Meltzer has a lot of critics who say he and his CDC colleagues have a habit of willfully ignoring the complexities of disease outbreaks, resulting in estimates that over-dramatize how bad an outbreak could get—estimates that may be skewed by politics. They say Meltzer and company also overestimate how much vaccine is needed and how beneficial it has been.

Overblown estimates can result in unnecessary government spending, they say, and may further erode trust in an agency that recently has seen its sterling reputation decline.

"Once we cry wolf, and our dire predictions turn out not to be the case, people lose confidence in public health," said Aaron King, a University of Michigan researcher who in a recent journal article took Meltzer and others to task for making what he called avoidable mistakes.

Meltzer, 56, is unbowed. "I am not sorry," he said.

He dismisses his peers' more complicated calculations as out of touch with political necessities, telling a story about President Lyndon Johnson in the 1960s. Johnson was listening to an economist talk about the uncertainty in his forecast and the reason a range of estimates made more sense than one specific figure. Johnson was unconvinced.

"Ranges are for cattle," Johnson said, according to legend. "Give me a number."

What Meltzer does is not particularly glamorous. He and others use mathematical calculations to try to provide a more precise picture of a certain situation, or to predict how the situation will change. They write equations on chalkboards, have small meetings to debate which data to use, and sit at computers. Meltzer spends a lot of time with Excel spreadsheets.

But modelers have become critical in the world of infectious diseases.

Top CDC officials came to Meltzer last summer, when the epidemic was spiraling out of control and international health officials were quickly trying to build a response. Meltzer was asked to project how bad things could get if nothing was done, as well as to estimate how stepped-up aid could bend the curve of the epidemic.

Meltzer and his colleagues created a spreadsheet tool that projected uninterrupted exponential growth in two countries, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

His prediction—published last September—warned that West Africa could be on track to see 500,000 to 1.4 million Ebola cases within a few months if the world sat on its hands and let the epidemic blaze.

About 21,000 cases materialized by mid-January—a terrible toll, to be sure, but also just a tiny fraction of the caseload Meltzer and his CDC colleagues warned about.

Did Meltzer blow it? Many say no. He and his colleagues clearly stated they were providing a worst-case scenario of how bad things could get. They also predicted a far lower number of cases if more help was sent—which already was happening when the model estimates were released.

But the worst-case figures got the most attention. The media focused on them in headlines. Health officials highlighted them in their push to get more money and manpower devoted to the epidemic. And interestingly, those are the numbers health officials describe as the most successful part of Meltzer's prediction paper.

"I think it galvanized countries—and people—to put in more effort" into fighting the epidemic, said Dr. Keiji Fukuda, formerly a colleague of Meltzer's at CDC who is now assistant director-general of the World Health Organization.

CDC is supposed to prepare the America for the worst, so it makes sense for CDC modelers to explore extreme scenarios. If Meltzer's estimates push policymakers to bolster public health defenses, it's all to the greater good, some say.

But there are others who feel that the result corrupts both science and politics.

"Public health officials are well aware that their statistics get used—and misused—to justify an increase in their funding" or to bolster vaccination campaigns and other efforts, said Peter Doshi, assistant professor at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy.

Modeling—so poorly understood by the public, the media, and even many people in public health—provides an opportunity to bend numbers to support goals, he argued.

Said David Ozonoff, a Boston University environmental health professor: "The way risk assessment is done in this country is the policy makers shoot the arrow and the risk assessors paint a target around it. There's a flavor of this with modeling, too. If you say the purpose (of a modeling estimate) is motivational, that's another way of saying it's not scientific."

Some say more of a separation between CDC administrators and the modelers might engender more trust in the numbers the agency uses. Perhaps an outside agency—an NIH institute on public health, if one were ever created—could do the modeling and report their findings to CDC, said Lone Simonsen, a research professor at George Washington University who formerly worked at the CDC and at the National Institutes of Health.

More immediately, CDC could increase its collaboration with top academic modelers, she added.

Meltzer is not interested. He is wary of proposals for greater collaboration or reliance on non-agency modelers, especially during emergency situations. And more sophisticated models do not interest him.

"Accuracy for the sake of accuracy is merely interesting," he said. "And interesting is not good enough."

Health & Fitness

Once a sideshow, former preemies praise doctor years later

LONG BEACH, N.Y. (AP)—At age 95, Lucille Horn often reflects on her long, full life, with a husband and five children, and how it might not have happened if not for the renegade doctor who put her in a Coney Island sideshow when she was just days old.

Horn is among thousands of former premature babies whose lives were saved in the early 20th century by Dr. Martin Couney, a pioneer in the use of incubators who sought acceptance for the technology by showing it off on carnival midways alongside freak shows and fan dancers.

"Life Begins at the Baby Incubator," read one of the signs at his displays—essentially a ward with babies in the glass cribs—that drew huge crowds at world's fairs, on the Atlantic City boardwalk and Coney Island's Luna Park. Couney invited desperate parents to bring him their preemies, and he paid for their care with the 25 cents he charged for admission.

Couney died in 1950, shortly after incubators finally came into wider use. Horn and others who owe their lives to him want their stories told so the doctor's curious tale—one that would cause outrage by today's standards—doesn't die with them.

AP

In this photo taken, Thursday, July 23, 2015, Beth Allen displays a photograph at her home in Hackensack, N.J., taken by her father after she was born premature in 1941.

Horn was a twin born prematurely in 1920 in Brooklyn. Her sister had died, and doctors told her father to hold off on a funeral because Lucille would not survive the day.

"He said: `Well that's impossible; she's alive now. We have to do something for her,'" Horn said. "My father wrapped me in a towel and took me in a cab to the incubator; I went to Dr. Couney. I stayed with him quite a few days. Almost five months."

Couney was well known in the early 1900s for his work in keeping premature babies alive. The German-trained doctor studied in Paris with Dr. Pierre Budin, who had pioneered the theory of enclosed incubators, designed to keep babies warm and protect them from germs.

The incubator was first seen in 1896 at the Berlin Exposition, and for the first time in the U.S. at expositions in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1898, and Buffalo, New York, in 1901.

U.S. hospitals were slow to adopt incubators for a variety of reasons. A 2000 article on the subject in the Journal of Perinatology cited, among other factors, the belief among early 1900s infant care experts that premature babies were weaklings who, if they survived, were likely to pass on that trait to their own children. Couney opened his first exhibit with "live babies" at Coney Island's Luna Park in 1903. By the 1920s, the incubators were kept in a Hansel-and-Gretel-like cottage decorated with the image of a stork overlooking a nest of cherubs. And in the 1930s, he took his incubator babies to the world's fairs in New York and Chicago, where the display was on the midway next to the show of burlesque fan dancer Sally Rand. Couney ended the sideshows in 1943.

Feds release updated strategy against AIDS in America

NEW YORK (AP)—U.S. health officials have updated their strategic plan for fighting AIDS, setting new goals for reducing infections and deaths.

The new document "seizes on the rapid shifts in science as we've learned more about this disease," said President Barack Obama, in a statement.

The plan unveiled Thursday updates one issued five years ago. Developments since then include new diagnostic tests, a daily pill for infection prevention and the implementation of the Affordable Care Act—increasing the number of people with health insurance.

However, new infections with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, have stayed about the same, at around 50,000 a year. Diagnosed infections have dropped in women and heterosexuals, but climbed in gay and bisexual men.

The updated document adds some new goals for 2020, like reducing the death rate among HIV-diagnosed people by at least one-third, and increasing the percentage who control their infection though medication.

It also reports on progress toward the goals that had been set for 2015. Health statistics for this year are not compiled yet. But a look at 2012 and 2013 data suggests slight progress in some categories, like the proportion of people with HIV who were linked to specialized medical care within one month of diagnosis—from 70 percent to nearly 73 percent.

But by some measures, the situation got worse. The proportion of people with diagnosed HIV who are homeless rose slightly from 2000 to 2012, to more than 8 percent.

Since AIDS was first identified more than 30 years ago, medicines have changed it from a death sentence to a chronic threat. About 1.2 million Americans were living with HIV in 2012, the most recent year for which that statistic is available.

Personal Trainer

Effective aerobic exercise

Many people want to benefit from aerobic exercise but are not certain how much is enough.

How often?
Sunday
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
To gain health benefits, three to five days a week
To lose weight, five times a week
1 Warming muscles
Warm up for 5 to 10 minutes before aerobic part of workout
2 Peak of exercise
Maintain aerobic intensity* for 30 to 45 minutes
*More than 60 percent but less than 90 percent of your "maximum heart rate," which equals 220 minus your age
3 Coming down
Gradually decrease intensity, then stretch muscles for 5 to 10 minutes as they cool down

Source: American College of Sports Medicine Guidelines for Aerobic Activity
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap -Tribune News Service

In Humble Gratitude

We the Family of the late

†Jose Hocog Naputi

Would like to express our sincerest appreciation to our friends and relatives, from near and far who have unselfishly came to be with us in so many ways expressing words of wisdom, comforted us and embraces us with love as we mourned untimely passing of our dearly beloved.

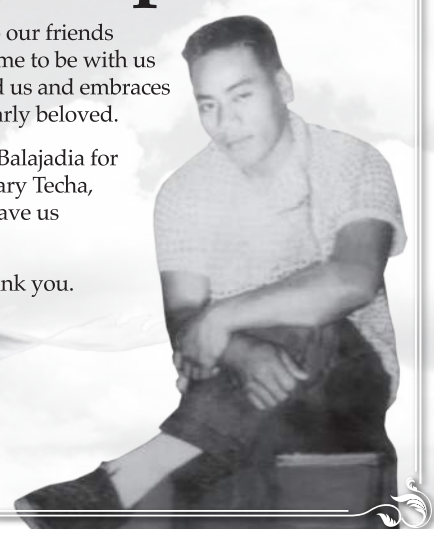
Si Yu'us Ma'ase to Fr. Kenneth Hezel, SJ and Fr. James S. Balajadia for their guidance and consolation, our gratitude to our Rosary Techa, the Doctors, Nurses and Staff of CHCC. Being with us gave us comfort and solace.

To all—all who have helped in one way or another—Thank you.

May God Bless us All.

Peace be with you and your families

Hinara Ada Naputi, Children and Family
Children and families of the late
†Jose H. Naputi and †Matilde S. Naputi



Life & Style

Bobby Brown, family mourn the late Bobbi Kristina

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (AP)—R&B singer Bobby Brown emerged from the funeral of his daughter Bobbi Kristina Brown, staring toward the ground before lifting his head up and briefly gazing at the sky.

Sporting a black dress shirt, the grieving Brown was one of the first to exit the tension-filled private service for Bobbi Kristina on Saturday at the St. James United Methodist Church in Alpharetta, just north of Atlanta. Twenty-two-year-old Bobbi Kristina was the only child between Brown and the late megastar singer Whitney Houston.

Bobbi Kristina died in hospice care July 26, about six months after she was found face-down and unresponsive in a bathtub at her townhome.

Several celebrities showed up for the funeral including filmmaker Tyler Perry, Grammy-winning R&B singer Monica and Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed.

In the middle of the service Bobby Brown's sister Leolah Brown walked out of the church and spoke to reporters gathered outside. She said she was angry because Pat Houston was speaking at the funeral. Pat Houston is the sister-in-law and former manager for the late Whitney Houston.

"I told her that Whitney is going to haunt her from the grave," Leolah Brown told reporters outside the church.

She suggested that the feud between the Houstons and the Browns was far from over.

"It's just getting started," she said before going back inside the church.

An email to the Houston family rep was not returned.

For years, there's been a longstanding rift between the families of the young woman's famous mother and father. Bobby Brown briefly appeared at Houston's funeral three years ago, saying he and his children were seated but asked repeatedly to move. Brown said he left because he didn't want to create a scene, but was upset.

Bobbi Kristina's death was grimly similar to the way her mother had died three years earlier.

Houston's assistant found the singer's lifeless body face-down in a foot of water in her bathtub at the Beverly Hilton Hotel just before the Grammy Awards in 2012. Authorities found prescription drugs in the suite, and evidence of heart disease and cocaine in her body, but determined her death was an accidental drowning.

Bobbi Kristina was found in the townhome she shared with Nick Gordon, an orphan three years older, whom Houston had raised as her own. Bobbi Kristina referred to him as her husband. A police report earlier this year described the incident as a drowning, and authorities are investigating her death.

Relations between Gordon and other relatives have soured over the past few years, especially after Bobbi Kristina was hospitalized. A protective order barred him from being within 200 feet of Pat Houston. And a feud erupted over whether Gordon could visit Bobbi Kristina while she stayed in the hospital.

Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard said he and his office are interested in reviewing the investigative file to determine whether any charges will be filed.

Leolah Brown said she believes Gordon was involved in the death of her niece.

Lawyers for Gordon declined to comment.

Bobbi Kristina was raised in the shadow of her famous parents' hugely public life.

She appeared alongside the couple in 2005 on the Bravo reality show "Being Bobby Brown," which showed her parents fighting, swearing and making court appearances. She attended award shows with her mother and father, walked red carpets with them and sang in Central Park with Houston as adoring fans watched.

Houston and Brown were married 15 years. Their tumultuous relationship ended in 2007.

On Saturday, she was remembered in a private service. A hearse carrying Bobbi Kristina arrived nearly three hours ahead of the service. Four men dressed in black suits carried the coffin into the church.

Eight police motorcycles escorted three stretch limousines, carrying mourners to the church in Alpharetta ahead of the service. A procession of dozens of cars followed.

Security was heavy outside the church. About 75 members of the media stood behind a barricade at the entrance of the church parking lot, while more than two dozen onlookers were just a few feet behind them.

Alpharetta police say they were assisted by more than a dozen state troopers to manage traffic and shut down lanes to accommodate parking around the church where the service was being held.

AP

In this Sept. 1, 2009 file photo, singer Whitney Houston, right, sings with her daughter Bobbi Kristina Brown during a performance on "Good Morning America" in Central Park in New York.

'Downton' producer doesn't shut door on big-screen film

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—With "Downton Abbey" coming to an end, its executive producer is offering hope that a follow-up movie is at least a possibility.

By ending the TV drama several years shy of the 1929 stock market crash, producer Gareth Neame said rich territory is left to be mined if a film is made.

He told TV critics Saturday that it's been discussed, but there's no script or a firm plan. Afterward, he told The Associated Press that such a project could be made as a big-screen theatrical release but reaffirmed it was speculative at this point.

"I think a `Downton Abbey' movie could be a wonderful thing," he said earlier.

But it's time for the series itself to end while it's still popular and acclaimed, Neame said. The Television Critics Association panel discussion was bittersweet as its stars and producers looked back at the drama's past seasons and ahead to its conclusion.

"How are we going to live without it?" said Rebecca Eaton, executive producer of "Masterpiece," the PBS showcase for "Downton Abbey."

Its sixth and final season will begin airing in September in the U.K. and in January on PBS in the United States.

Neame said the last season will bring back some faces from the past, but the focus of the final season is to wrap up story lines for the main cast.

The high-toned soap opera about the upstairs and downstairs occupants of a stately English mansion dealing with early 20th-century social change will end production Aug. 15.

Studio scenes remain to be shot, but production at Highclere, the estate that stood in for Downton Abbey, wrapped recently.

"That was a sort of interesting day," Hugh Bonneville, who plays Lord Grantham, said of the final taping at Highclere. The cast and crew marked the occasion by taking a "team photo" in the dining room, where the longest scenes were filmed.

Saying goodbye to their fictional Crawley family home was difficult.

"Laura (Carmichael) and I wandered around for the last time," said Michelle Dockery, who played Mary Crawley. "Suddenly we didn't want to go home. It was really funny." She and Carmichael (Edith Crawley), sat on a garden bench used by Mary and the now-departed Matthew, her husband who was played by Dan Stevens.

They had a bit of a cry, which will likely be the case for the show's fans. It was an international success and is the highest-rated PBS drama ever.

The actors were asked what they would miss about the series.

"I'll miss being in a hit TV show," said Elizabeth McGovern, who played Cora Crawley, the countess of Grantham.

Besides, Penelope Wilton noted, nothing can go on forever.

"Some of us would be dead. You have to watch for that," said Wilton, who plays Isobel Crawley, the foil and sometimes-foe of Maggie Smith's Violet Crawley.

Steven Moffat on 'Sherlock' special; how long series can go

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—"Sherlock" fans have grown familiar with the waiting game between TV seasons, but they may be encouraged that show-runner Steven Moffat says he could see it "going on for a long while."

Moffat

Speaking to TV critics Saturday at a bi-annual panel, Moffat said he and co-executive producer, Mark Gatiss, are game to keep going.

"I don't think it will be us that switch it off. I imagine it'll be down to Benedict (Cumberbatch) and Martin (Freeman.) Obviously we can't do the show without them, and they've always said they're happy to carry on so long as it's good."

In fact, Moffat would embrace a more mature Sherlock and Watson.

"I'd like to see them age, not because I'm a sadist. Just because it would be interesting to see them become the more traditional age of those characters, which is in their fifties. They're much younger than the normal version."

Production on new episodes is expected to begin in the spring of 2016, but Cumberbatch and Freeman filmed a one-off episode set in the Victorian-era that has been rumored to air this Christmas in the UK.

"We've never said it's a Christmas special," said Moffat's wife and "Sherlock" producer Sue Vertue.

"It's probably Christmas-ish," added Moffat. "We don't actually know. We're not making this up."

"I think we are working very hard on it to not frustrate the fans who know it's on BBC and want to see it," added PBS' Masterpiece Chief Rebecca Eaton.

What Moffat could say was that his leads enjoyed doing a period "Sherlock," but one actor seemed to like it more.

"By the end, Martin was ready to go back to the more acerbic version, but I think Benedict really enjoyed being Victorian Holmes. He was saying halfway through, "Let's always do this. I quite like it,'" said Moffat.

They decided to jump back in time for an episode because "We checked the books and discovered we got it wrong," joked Moffat. "We should have read them first. No, just because we can, really."

Viewers should not expect an explanation for the time jump. "We never bothered explaining what they were doing in modern London, so why bother explaining what they're doing in Victorian London, when that's where they're supposed to be?"

Moffat also commented on the British government potentially yanking public funding from the BBC.

"It staggers me that we got a government that got elected and decided the main problem with Britain is our national broadcaster... There must be something more important to do," he said.

Dr. Dre announces release of first album in 15 years

Mug

PHOENIX (AP)—Hip hop super-producer Dr. Dre says the wait is finally over—he's going to release his first album in 15 years.

Dre said on his radio show, Dr. Dre's The Pharmacy, that "Compton a Soundtrack by Dr. Dre" will be available Aug. 7.

He said Saturday that the album was inspired by the N.W.A. biopic "Straight Outta Compton," a Hollywood film that details his rise in the music industry along with members of one of the genre's most well-known hardcore groups.

Dre said the album includes features from Ice Cube, Kendrick Lamar, Eminem and Snoop Dogg.

It's his first album since "2001," which was released in 1999.

He says it's going to be his grand finale, "and the record is bananas."

'Downton Abbey' to get a float in the 2016 Rose Bowl parade

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Maggie Smith's character on "Downton Abbey" might find the pomp and circumstance uncomfortable, but the PBS show is getting its own float in the Rose Parade, two days before the premiere of its sixth and final season on Jan. 3.

PBS president and CEO Paula Kerger made the announcement Saturday at a bi-annual panel for TV critics.

"It's just a beautiful send off to the series and I think it's fun," said Kerger.

She said that PBS has been accused at times of not having a sense of humor and whimsy, and the float plan does have those qualities.

As for specifics: "It will have a lot of flowers on it and it will be a `Downton Abbey' theme."

In an interview with The Associated Press, the show's star Michelle Dockery said she had never heard of the Rose Parade but joked there would be a lookalike of her riding the float.

Funding for the float will come from PBS' marketing budget, unless a sponsor can be found, a PBS spokesperson said.

The Rose Parade is held every year on New Year's Day in Pasadena, California.

AP

From left, Penelope Wilton, Elizabeth McGovern, Hugh Bonneville, Michelle Dockery, Laura Carmichael and Joanne Froggatt attend the 'Downton Abbey' cast photo call during the 2015 Summer TCA Tour at The Beverly Hilton Hotel on Saturday, Aug. 1, 2015, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Snoop Dogg stopped by Italian customs

MILAN (AP)—Snoop Dogg has had another run-in with European authorities.

Italian financial police said they stopped the rapper at the Lamezia Terme airport in Calabria on Saturday with $422,000 in cash, well above the limit that can legally be transported across EU borders undeclared. The incident comes less than a week after Snoop Dogg was briefly stopped in Sweden on suspicion of drug use after a concert near Stockholm.

Financial police confirmed a report by the Italian news agency ANSA that half of the cash was impounded under Italian anti-money laundering codes. In such cases, the balance is returned minus any fine set by magistrates.

Travelers within the European Union are required to declare 10,000 euros ($11,000) or more in cash.

Snoop Dogg played in Calabria Friday night, and is scheduled to perform Sunday at the Kendal Calling Festival in England.

Last weekend in Sweden, the rapper was questioned and tested for suspected drug use north of the capital. Authorities said test results would not be available for some time.

AP

Actress Angelina Jolie Pitt, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees special envoy and co-founder of the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative, center, walks with her son Pax, left, as they visit Jan Mai Kaung refugee camp in Myitkyina, Kachin State, Myanmar, Thursday, July 30, 2015.

Jolie, Suu Kyi visit Myanmar female factory workers

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Angelina Jolie has joined Myanmar's opposition leader and democracy icon, Aung San Suu Kyi, in sitting down with female workers to learn more about their dire conditions.

Jolie, who is a special envoy for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, is on a four-day visit to the Southeast Asian nation.

During her meeting with the factory workers on the outskirts of an industrial zone in Myanmar's largest city, Yangon, Jolie and Suu Kyi witnessed first-hand the conditions the women live in, mostly low-cost hostels. Jolie also toured inside the factory.

She traveled to Kachin state earlier this week, home to more than 10,000 displaced people since a cease-fire between Myanmar's government and ethnic rebels has broken down in 2011.

According to her trip details, it is unlikely that Jolie will be able to travel to western Rakhine State, where more than 100,000 Muslim minority Rohingya live in apartheid-like conditons in camps.

It is Jolie's first visit to Myanmar, which only recently emerged from decades of military rule. More than a dozen ethnic minority groups, mostly in Myanmar's border areas, have been fighting for greater autonomy since the country attained independence from Britain 67 years ago.

Recently, the world attention has turned to the plight of stateless Rohingya Muslims who have been trafficked from Myanmar and Bangladesh aboard overcrowded boats. Dozens of graves as well as pens likely used as cages for Rohingya have been found in abandoned jungle camps on both sides of the Thailand-Malaysian border.

Lesbian mom's son hesitates to accept new kids as siblings

DEAR ABBY: I am a 22-year-old male and my brother, "Brian," is 14. When I was 9, our parents split up. After a year, Mom realized she was a lesbian. She is married now to a younger woman, and they are starting a family through in vitro fertilization. Mom's wife is carrying twins—a boy and a girl.

When I first heard about their plans to conceive, I was devastated. After a few months, Mom and I were able to reconnect and talk about it. I'm happy they're happy, but I'm still uncomfortable with the situation. When the children are born, I am unsure how I will be known. Mom says Brian and I will have "a sister and a brother."

Brian is excited that he will no longer be the youngest. But at my age, as a business owner and in a serious relationship, I prefer to consider Brian my sibling, not the twins. I will love the babies because they are connected to me, but I'm leaning toward being called their uncle or cousin because the twins will not be my blood relations.

I guess I'm "old school," and with all the changes I've experienced in my life I'm not sure I want all of a sudden to say I have new siblings. Is this OK?

FINDING MY WAY IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR FINDING: I don't think you have to announce anything when your mother's children are born. As long as your relationship with them is a loving one, I don't think the "label" matters.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Patrick," and I have been dating for a year and a half. He's an incredibly sweet guy who treats me right. My family loves him and his family loves me. I can't see myself being with anyone else.

The problem is, he's very stubborn about certain things—like his health. It's a constant battle to get him to go to the doctor or dentist. I worry about him sometimes when he is ill. When he insists he doesn't want to see a doctor, it makes me feel like he doesn't care about making sure he's healthy enough to spend the rest of his life with me.

Patrick is my first serious boyfriend, so I'm not sure if this is just a "guy thing" or if it's just HIS problem. Am I wrong to be upset that he cares so little about his health, or should I let him be?

PROACTIVE IN LOUISIANA

DEAR PROACTIVE: You appear to be wrongly attributing your boyfriend's reluctance to see a doctor or dentist to a personal rejection. It may be a "guy thing" -- or there may be other reasons for it. Have you asked him if he even has a health care provider he could contact, whether he has insurance to cover it, or whether he is afraid of doctors? Some people are—and the same goes for dentists.

It's important that you know what you're dealing with. Until you understand the reason for his resistance, you won't be able to help him resolve the problem.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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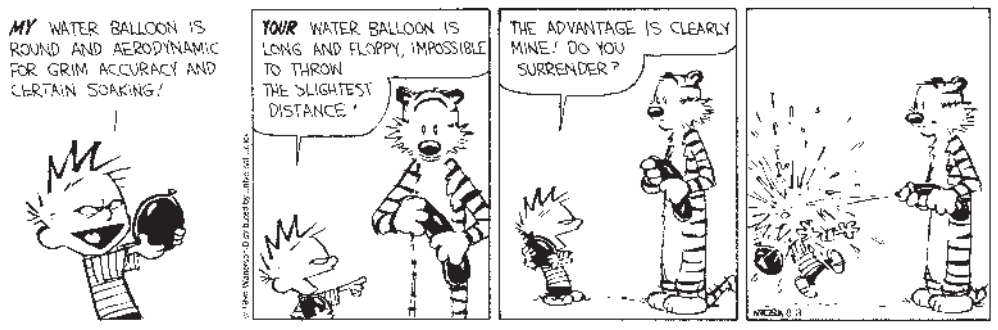
For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MY WATER BALLOON IS ROUND AND AERODYNAMIC FOR GRIM ACCURACY AND CERTAIN SOAKING!
YOUR WATER BALLOON IS LONG AND FLOPPY, IMPOSSIBLE TO THROW THE SLIGHTEST DISTANCE.
THE ADVANTAGE IS CLEARLY MINE! DO YOU SURRENDER?

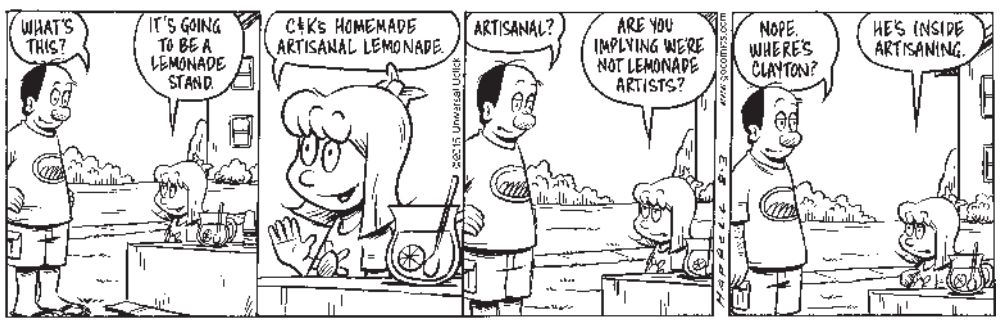
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

JON, IT HAS OCCURRED TO ME THAT I HAVE NEVER THANKED YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO FOR ME
SO I JUST WANT TO SAY...
THAT I DON'T PLAN TO
JIM DAVIS 8-3

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Make inquiries
4 Like old bread
9 Tend the lawn
12 Eisenhower
13 Apiary homes
14 "— not choose to run"
15 Thanksgiving pie filling
17 Neither mate
18 Lincoln
19 Safe and sound
21 Panda's fodder
24 Towel marking
25 Providence sch.
26 Boxer
28 Chinese peninsula
31 Go under
33 Pitch
35 Unopened tulip
36 Spud
38 "Help!"
40 Hawaiian garland
41 Army vehicle
43 Not prone to bragging
45 Eye related
47 — Baba
48 Book-spine abbr.
49 Mesabi Range site
54 Prior to
55 Cybermessages
56 With it, once
57 Knock
58 Settle a debt
59 Scratch the surface

DOWN
1 Intention
2 Go schussing
3 Barbie's cohort
4 1984 Cyndi Lauper hit
5 Break
6 Rd.
7 Tether
8 Regard
9 Tiny
10 Smell
11 Had on
16 Taxi
20 Grouch
21 Sample of statuary
22 Diva's rendition
23 Bourbon recipe
27 Petrol
29 Brewery products
30 Last writes?
32 — over (faint)
34 Bucharest's land
37 Hole-making tool
39 Excluding all else
42 Beef rating
44 Insult (Sl.)
45 Finished
46 Mrs. Julius Dithers
50 Siesta
51 Resistance measure
52 Afternoon social
53 Spring mo.

Solution time: 27 mins.

W	A	S	■	M	E	L	■	B	I	M	P	
A	V	F	■	I	R	F	■	R	A	R	F	R
S	I	T	■	C	A	N	D	Y	C	A	N	E
P	A	T	■	A	S	I	A	N	■	■	■	■
S	N	O	B	■	E	N	D	■	B	O	O	B
■	■	■	R	A	D	■	S	H	A	N	D	Y
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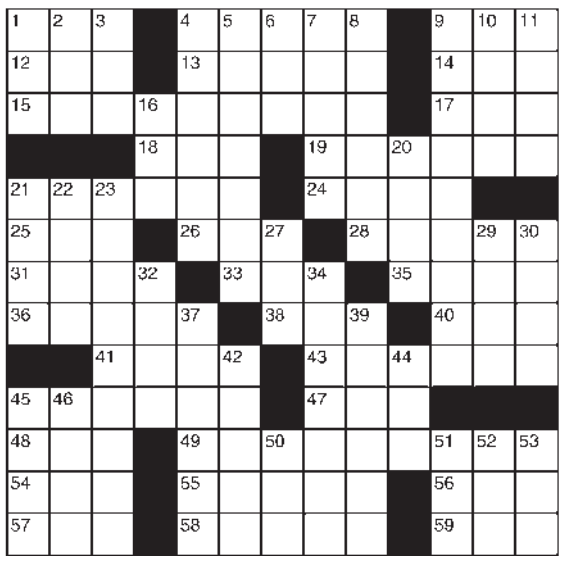
B	R	A	N	D	Y	■	A	W	N	■	■	■
A	P	E	X	■	E	B	B	■	S	O	L	O
■	■	■	■	H	A	I	R	S	■	P	O	W
S	A	N	D	Y	H	O	O	K	■	I	I	I
I	N	A	I	R	■	T	A	I	■	U	R	N
P	A	Y	F	F	■	A	D	D	■	M	F	G

Last Friday's answer 8-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Lochte, 31; Tom Brady, 38; Martha Stewart, 74; Tony Bennett, 89.

Happy Birthday: Keep up with changing trends. Step up your game and be prepared to make decisions while on the go. You will face a changing playing field no matter which way you turn, and thriving on adventure, challenges and testing your abilities will add to your confidence and allow you to show off exactly what you have to offer. Your numbers are 7, 10, 23, 27, 34, 36, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make things happen. Thinking about what you want but not acting on your thoughts will not lead to happiness or success. Channel your energy into getting ahead and reaching your goals. Love and romance are on the rise. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Finish your chores and take care of personal responsibilities before someone complains or takes over. Problems with children will develop if you overreact or give in to emotional manipulation. Avoid unnecessary spending and avoid trying to buy someone's attention or affection. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): By helping others, you will bring about personal changes or alter the way you live. Use your personal space to host talks, meetings and to network. Don't let an emotional issue cause you to let someone take advantage of your generosity. ✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): An open-minded approach will help you make better choices when dealing with peers or relatives. It is important to control your impulses if you want to avoid making a costly mistake. Your intuition will be on target. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Deal with financial, medical or legal institutions to avoid an unexpected setback due to a lack of knowledge or documentation. Protect your position and your reputation. If you are left in a vulnerable position, someone will take advantage of you. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Be secretive about any personal matters that can affect your money, health or current legal situation. Don't be fooled by someone offering compliments or gifts. You'll be disappointed by the outcome of a situation that you face at home. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Change what isn't working for you. It's up to you to make the adjustments that will lead to happiness. Look for a new job or learn skills that teach you what you need to know or do in order to reach your goals. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Staying on track and refusing to back down under pressure will lead to victory. Determination and putting more muscle into reaching your goals will help you surpass any controversy or opposition. Strive to be unique. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take charge and you will reach your destination and make a good impression on the people you meet along the way. Staying closer to home will not earn you as favorable a response. Someone will meddle and cause setbacks if you aren't careful. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't speak openly about what you have. Bragging will make someone jealous and put you in a compromising position. The less you share about your financial situation, the better. Focus on helping others by offering suggestions, not cash. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Use your unique ideas to dazzle someone you want to form a personal or business partnership with, and you will find a way to get things up and running. Love is on the rise. Explore new possibilities with someone special. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can make headway professionally if you are adaptable and dependable. Give your all and you will reap the rewards. Use your skills more diversely and you will learn quickly and surprise someone in a position to influence your income. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, complex and sympathetic. You are persuasive and persistent.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, eugenialast.com/blog/ for Eugenia's blog and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9				8		3		
		1		3	7		8	
	2				9			6
					3	8	9	
4	5			2			3	7
	8	3	6					
5			3				1	
	9		8	6		4		
		7		4				2

Difficulty Level ★ 8/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

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Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

8	7	3	2	9	6	5	1	4
6	5	1	7	8	4	9	2	3
9	4	2	1	3	5	8	6	7
2	6	8	3	5	1	7	4	9
5	9	4	6	7	2	3	8	1
3	1	7	8	4	9	2	5	6
1	2	9	5	6	7	4	3	8
4	8	6	9	2	3	1	7	5
7	3	5	4	1	8	6	9	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/31

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

POSTING ON SOCIAL MEDIA SITES **Solution: 4 letters**

S	S	E	T	O	U	Q	B	U	S	I	N	E	S	S
T	T	O	P	I	C	S	G	N	I	D	N	E	R	T
N	C	U	T	E	S	T	F	A	R	C	R	S	E	N
E	U	I	D	E	A	S	O	S	A	U	T	X	O	E
M	D	T	S	O	P	Ⓓ	O	U	T	N	T	I	R	V
H	O	N	L	I	Ⓝ	E	D	C	E	S	T	A	S	E
S	R	L	L	Ⓔ	D	I	I	M	N	A	H	I	H	F
I	P	C	Ⓢ	I	E	P	E	O	R	S	T	C	A	F
L	C	T	V	N	R	C	I	O	E	E	W	S	S	I
P	O	C	C	O	N	S	M	L	S	O	H	A	H	Y
M	M	E	S	U	A	E	F	T	L	I	L	I	T	R
O	M	N	O	C	M	I	A	L	O	E	D	K	A	O
C	E	N	C	M	E	T	O	N	N	E	W	S	G	T
C	N	O	O	S	U	F	M	E	S	S	A	G	E	S
A	T	C	E	S	I	V	D	A	N	S	W	E	R	E

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Last Saturday's Answer: Pitch

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Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. Minimum 5 years work experience. Proficient in MYOB/AccountEdge Premium Accounting Software, MS Word, Excel. Effective oral and written communication skills.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(7) Cook
(7) Waitress
(1) Restaurant Manager

All applicants should have a minimum 3 years work related experience. Must be able to consistently demonstrate good customer service, preferably knows how to speak Chinese and Japanese. Flexible working hours. Please email resume to PMB 373 Box 100003, Saipan, MP 96950 or email to: newsic426@gmail.com. New Star International Corporation dba Mura Ichiban Restaurant.

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If interested, send resume to Western Sales Trading Company by email to wstcospn@pticom.com or by fax at 670-322-9408. Proof of qualifications and police clearance required within three days of hire.

WORLD RESORT SAIPAN

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: July 29, 2015
CLOSE DATE: August 12, 2015
POSITION: Lifeguard
SALARY: $6.05 - $6.55 per hour

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Obtaining a lifeguard certification will be required for continued employment for the lifeguard position. Must have a friendly and an outgoing personality. Six (6) positions are currently available for the lifeguard position.

OPEN DATE: July 29, 2015
CLOSE DATE: August 12, 2015
POSITION: Server
SALARY: $6.05 - $6.55 per hour

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in food service preferred. Position will require employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment. Friendly personality, willingness to serve and a readily smiling individual highly preferred. Four (4) positions are currently available.

OPEN DATE: July 29, 2015
CLOSE DATE: August 12, 2015
POSITION: Human Resources Clerk
SALARY: $6.05 - $6.55 per hour

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in human resources or administrative preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide support, friendly attitude and a ready smile. One (1) position is currently available.

OPEN DATE: July 29, 2015
CLOSE DATE: August 12, 2015
POSITION: Cook
SALARY: $6.05 - $6.55 per hour

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Two years of formal training/education in culinary arts required. Position requires employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment. Four (4) positions are currently available.

OPEN DATE: July 29, 2015
CLOSE DATE: August 12, 2015
POSITION: Mechanic & Electrician
SALARY: $6.05 - $6.55 per hour

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum of two (2) years of formal mechanical experience or mechanical training is required. Two years of experience in related field strongly preferred. Two (2) positions are currently available for the mechanic position. Two (2) positions are currently available for the electrician position.

For more information, please contact the Human Resources Team at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274/266/576. Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle/Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be accepted by the Security Office.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Mum Brady sharp in Patriots' first padded practice

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — Two things were certain Saturday when the New England Patriots put on pads for the first time at training camp: The home fans sure do love Tom Brady, and the quarterback's suspension and court case haven't affected his accuracy.

In between raucous cheers that started when he ran onto the field, Brady was strong and precise with his passing. He completed 12 consecutive passes during 11-on-11 work and also lofted a nifty touchdown pass to Danny Amendola during a goal-line drill.

"Tom's our leader," Amendola said.

And he's loved by Patriots fans, many of whom donned No. 12 jerseys and chanted "Brady! Brady!" as he jogged onto the practice field. Brady raised his hand and acknowledged the crowd. He later signed autographs, then once again shunned the media.

Since the NFL upheld the four-game suspension for his role in allegedly tampering with football air pressure in last season's AFC title game, Brady has remained mum outside a Facebook post in which he maintained his innocence.

The issue now is expected to be decided in a New York court before the start of the season. Meanwhile, coach Bill Belichick and the Super Bowl champs are insisting it's business as usual.

"You're just trying to do what you have to do for that play at that particular time," rookie guard Tre Jackson said, "no matter if Tom Brady or Jimmy Whoever is behind you."

AP
New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady signs autographs during an NFL football training camp in Foxborough, Mass., Saturday, Aug. 1, 2015.

That would be Jimmy Garoppolo, the 2014 second-round pick who would likely replace Brady if the suspension holds. Garoppolo took some snaps with the first team, although continued to do the majority of his work with the backups.

Garoppolo also looked sharp, with Aaron Dobson a trusty target.

"Jimmy's continuing to improve," Amendola said. "He's learning the ways of the NFL."

The Patriots also had a new look in the backfield, as LeGarrette Blount made his debut. The running back worked with the starters after being on the physically unable to perform list for the first two days of camp.

Blount, who will serve a one-game suspension in the season opener Sept. 10 against Pittsburgh for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy, failed his conditioning test, according to The Boston Globe. But Blount declined to specify why he was out.

"I don't know," he said.

What, exactly, does the conditioning test entail?

"Conditioning," Blount said. "It's a test, a conditioning test."

Combine that with Belichick not speaking to reporters and it seemed like a normal day for the Patriots: tight-lipped and led by their dynamic quarterback.

"He's been doing it for a long time on a very high level," Amendola said of Brady. "He gets a lot of guys going and we love playing with him."

Tomsula begins camp doing things his way, with player input

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—Jim Tomsula walked through the cafeteria on Day 1 and fist-bumped a chef from across the high counter, then asked another member of the kitchen staff about her family.

He was more red-faced than usual after forgetting to apply his sunscreen Saturday for San Francisco's morning walk-through. No protective hat for shade, either.

A first-year NFL coach who made the improbable jump from leading the 49ers' defensive line, Tomsula is doing things his way. That has been the case since he took over for departed Jim Harbaugh in January with no coordinator experience but plenty of life experience.

And he's doing it with his cheery disposition, careful consideration for the schedule to keep his players fresh, and input from other experienced coaches around him and the very guys who take the field every day to play for him.

"You'll probably hear me say this a lot throughout this year, but Coach Tomsula's the most genuine head coach I've ever had in my football career," third-year safety Eric Reid said. "He really cares. If he says something, you can rest assured that he's going to try to get it done. It's the nature of the business, coaches say things and sometimes they fall through, but you can be pretty confident that he's going to do whatever he can do for you. I think the guys respect that. I know I love him. I'll do anything for him. I think that will translate on the field for us."

As he begins his first training camp in charge, Tomsula has tweaked the practice schedule to afternoon sessions. (Saturday's opening practice began at 7 p.m. and ended under the lights). It's designed to make the most of meetings before and after on-field workouts while providing time in the middle of the day for weightlifting and a bit of a break from the football grind. Even a quick trip back to the hotel for some rest and recovery.

Tomsula's attention to such details goes a long way in the locker room. So does his humble coaching beginning and unique path considering he once lived in his car while barely making ends meet before coaching took him to NFL Europe and back.

"Tomsula's been someone that's been great to me since I've been here, never acted any different toward me now than he did when I first got here, which I something I greatly respect about him," quarterback Colin Kaepernick said.

During practice, Tomsula often stood with hands behind his back or arms crossed in front, closely observing the scene before a few hundred cheering fans in the stands. He encouraged second-year wideout Bruce Ellington after a route with a hand slap, then at one point urged his players along with: "Let's move, let's move, let's move! Come on!"

Tomsula already seems to have the belief not just of his quarterback but all of his players - and it sure didn't hurt that he was already on Harbaugh's staff so there's a trust and familiarity factor. Like Harbaugh, Tomsula has his own signature outfit: A black and red 49ers track suit with a zipper on one sleeve. Harbaugh, of course, had his khakis and pullover.

The similarities really stop there. On Friday, Tomsula pulled out a list and read off the injury report, something he plans to do when appropriate as long as it doesn't put his team at any kind of competitive disadvantage during the season. It's a refreshing approach in the ever-secretive NFL.

New wide receiver Torrey Smith is swearing off social media for a few weeks until he considers himself to be in top form. "No outside distractions," he insists.

"I'm sure if Coach had his way we'd all throw our phones away," Smith said.

When later told of Smith's comments, Tomsula—on the podium, facing TV cameras—quickly grabbed his phone and set it down then pulled out his pockets to show they were empty.

"Here, I'm going to put this here so nobody sees it. I don't have phones," he said with a grin.

Defensive coordinator Eric Mangini is one of the men Tomsula put around him as a key adviser who has been in his spot. The skeptics already expect him to fail following a season in which the Niners went 8-8 and missed the playoffs for the first time in four years.

"The thing I love about Jim, is Jim is Jim. He's going to be who he is, he's not going to try to be anybody else," Mangini said. "Guys appreciate that, that honesty, that sincerity. He does care about the players, he cares deeply about them. That resonates in the locker room."

Tomsula, who is 1-0 as a head coach after guiding the 49ers to a win in the 2010 season finale, appreciates the faith.

"It makes me happy. I can't fake it, but I think we have a lot of guys here that aren't faking it," Tomsula said. "So, roll up your sleeves, it's the day-to-day. Who shows up every day? If you show up every day with a smile or if you show up every day and you're an angry man, be an angry man every day. Just be that guy. Don't fake it. Be who you are and let's go."

Seahawks finalize contract extension with Bobby Wagner

SEATTLE (AP)—Right on the heels of signing quarterback Russell Wilson to a contract extension, the Seattle Seahawks have locked up All-Pro middle linebacker Bobby Wagner.

The Seahawks and Wagner finalized a four-year contract extension on Saturday night, making sure Seattle keeps Wagner beyond the 2015 season when his rookie contract was set to expire. Team owner Paul Allen confirmed the agreement in a tweet.

NFL.com reported the deal is worth $43 million, which would make Wagner the highest-paid middle linebacker in football.

Wagner was an All-Pro last season and finished second on the team with 104 tackles despite missing five games with a painful toe injury—and that was after having 140 and 119 the previous two years. Wagner has been Seattle's starting middle linebacker since being selected in the second round of the 2012 draft.

Wagner said Friday that his deadline for an extension was "now," and that he briefly considered holding out from training camp to make his point.

"It's important to be recognized as one of the best. It's not up to me. I let the people who get paid to figure that out, figure that out," Wagner said on the first day of training camp. "My job is to go out there and make sure this defense is ran right and that's the best defense. And it will be the best defense that you guys see on this field - again."

The stretch last season when Wagner was out only reinforced his importance to the best defense in the NFL. When he returned in late November, the Seahawks became immovable again. They didn't allow a fourth-quarter point from Week 12 through the end of the regular season.

Had it not been for the toe injury, Wagner likely would have been in the discussion for defensive player of the year. And he's getting rewarded for that performance.

"History shows that if you play well, you're supposed to get paid," Wagner said. "That's the viewpoint, and we'll see if it holds up."

Kershaw extends scoreless streak to 37 innings

AP
Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw throws to the plate during the second inning of Aa baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels, Saturday, Aug. 1, 2015, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Clayton Kershaw extended his scoreless streak to 37 innings with eight innings of two-hit ball and fellow-pitcher Yasmani Grandal hit a two-run homer, leading the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 3-1 victory over the Angels on Saturday.

Kershaw (9-6) struck out seven, walked one and retired his last 15 batters while working on eight days' rest. His previous start was a three-hit shutout on July 23 at New York in which he took a perfect game into the seventh inning. The three-time Cy Young Award winner hasn't given up a run since Wilmer Flores' RBI single for the Mets on July 3 at Dodger Stadium.

Kenley Jansen, battling a virus for the past four days, pitched a shaky ninth for his 20th save in 21 attempts. He ended it by retiring Erick Aybar on a popup with runners at the corners after giving up an RBI single by Albert Pujols.

Kershaw had a 41-inning shutout streak last season, when he became the first pitcher since 1968 to be named NL MVP and won his unprecedented fourth consecutive major league ERA title.

Pujols' leadoff single in the second and Johnny Giavotella's leadoff single in the fourth were the only hits off Kershaw, who lowered his ERA this season to 2.37 and raised his major league-leading strikeout total to 192.

Andrew Heaney (5-1) was charged with two runs and four hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Giants 9, Rangers 7, 11 innings

In Arlington, Texas, Cole Hamels followed up his no-hitter by pitching into the eighth inning of his Texas debut without a decision as San Francisco beat the Rangers in 11 innings.

Hunter Pence led off the 11th with a homer off Sam Dyson (0-1), another pitcher in his first game for Texas.

Brandon Belt homered twice for the Giants, who have won 14 of their last 17 games. Belt led off the third with his 11th homer, and added another solo shot in the 11th off Sam Freeman.

Hamels, the first pitcher traded during a season immediately after throwing a no-hitter, left with the Rangers up 7-4 after Joe Panik's two-out double in the eighth. Reliever Tanner Scheppers then allowed three consecutive run-scoring hits.

Hunter Strickland (2-1), the seventh Giants pitcher, threw two scoreless innings before Santiago Casilla worked the 11th for his 27th save.

Mets 3, Nationals 2

In New York, Lucas Duda homered twice and hit a tiebreaking double in the eighth inning after newcomer Yoenis Cespedes was walked intentionally, leading New York to a come-from-behind victory over Washington in front of the second largest regular-season crowd ever at Citi Field.

Playing in his first game since being acquired from Detroit Friday at the trade deadline, Cespedes was walked by reliever Matt Thornton (1-1) even though Duda had connected twice on fireworks night off Joe Ross and has been on a recent tear.

With 42,996 fans on their feet and cheering, Duda drove a 1-2 pitch the opposite way to left field that short-hopped the wall. Curtis Granderson, who doubled leading off the inning, scored to put New York ahead.

Rockies 6, Cardinals 2

In St. Louis, Nolan Arenado and Ben Paulsen homered, sending Jorge De La Rosa and Colorado to a victory over St. Louis.

Arenado connected for a two-run shot in the fourth against Lance Lynn (8-6) and Paulsen added a leadoff drive in the sixth. Paulsen finished with two hits and three RBIs in Colorado's first win at Busch Stadium since May 12, 2013, snapping a string of five straight losses at St. Louis.

De La Rosa (7-4) allowed two runs and seven hits in 6 2/3 innings. The left-hander is 7-2 with a 3.41 ERA in nine starts against St. Louis since joining Colorado in 2008.

Royals 7, Blue Jays 6

In Toronto, Ben Zobrist hit two homers, Eric Hosmer singled home the go-ahead run in the eighth inning as Kansas City beat Toronto to snap a three-game losing streak.

Zobrist, who went 3 for 4 and scores three runs, also homered in the first and doubled and scored in the sixth. Yordano Ventura (6-7) gave up five runs and six hits in seven innings to win back-to-back starts for the first time since April.

Wade Davis worked the eighth and Greg Holland pitched around a walk and a single for his 23rd save.

Facing new Blue Jays reliever Mark Lowe (0-2), Zobrist tied it at 5 with a drive to right. Lorenzo Cain doubled and scored on Hosmer's base hit, Kendrys Morales singled Hosmer to third and Salvador Perez hit a sacrifice fly.

Jose Bautista hit two solo homers and Josh Donaldson added a two-run drive for Toronto.

White Sox 8, Yankees 2

In Chicago, Melky Cabrera and Alexei Ramirez homered, and John Danks struck out eight as Chicago beat New York.

Danks (6-8) held the Yankees to a run and three hits in 5 2/3 innings. He walked four but his eight strikeouts matched a season high.

Brian McCann hit his 17th homer for the AL East-leading Yankees, who could muster only five hits.

Tyler Saladino hit an RBI single in the bottom of the fifth to give the White Sox a two-run lead and knock Bryan Mitchell (0-1) out of the game. Diego Moreno replaced Mitchell and hit Jose Abreu with a pitch before he allowed Cabrera's three-run homer.

Ramirez added his solo home run for the surging White Sox, who have won eight of 10.

Astros 9, Diamondbacks 2

In Houston, Hank Conger hit two homers, including his first career grand slam, and rookie Carlos Correa also homered twice to help Houston to a win over Arizona.

Dallas Keuchel (13-5) allowed two hits and two runs with eight strikeouts in six innings to extend Houston's lead in the AL West to three games.

It was the major league-leading 44th multi-homer game Houston, which leads the majors with 147 home runs.

The Astros were up one with one out and the bases loaded in the fourth inning when Conger connected off Jeremy Hellickson (7-7) to push the lead to 7-2.

Facing the Astros for the first time, Hellickson yielded seven hits and seven runs in a season-low 3 1-3 innings as the Diamondbacks saw their season-long six game winning streak snapped. It's the first time he's given up three homers this season.

Reds 4, Pirates 3

In Cincinnati, Eugenio Suarez had a sacrifice fly and an RBI double off 14-game winner Gerrit Cole as Cincinnati extended its home-field success over Pittsburgh.

The Reds have won five of six against their Ohio River rival at Great American Ball Park this season. They are 9-3 against Pittsburgh overall.

Cole (14-5) leads the majors in wins, but three of his five losses have come against the Reds, a team he has never beaten. Jay Bruce added a run-scoring double as Cole fell to 0-4 in six career starts against the Reds.

Suarez got his third RBI of the night with a sacrifice fly in the eighth inning off newcomer Joe Blanton for a 4-2 lead.

Cubs 4, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Kyle Hendricks scattered four hits and Anthony Rizzo continued his homer binge to lead Chicago to a win over Milwaukee.

Rizzo made it four straight games with a home run with a three-run shot in the third inning. Kyle Schwarber added a homer for the Cubs, who have won the first three games of the series and four straight overall.

Hendricks (5-5), who was pulled after giving up a leadoff single in the eighth inning, gave up one run on four hits, while striking out six. He won for the first time in his last five starts.

Tommy Hunter earned his first save of the season.

Matt Garza (5-12) gave up three runs on four hits in six innings for the Brewers.

Athletics 5, Indians 1

In Oakland, California, Marcus Semien homered to back a strong outing by Oakland newcomer Aaron Brooks as the Athletics beat Cleveland to snap a three-game losing streak.

Brooks (1-0) allowed one run and five hits over 7-plus innings for his first career win. The right-hander, who joined Oakland as part of the June 28 trade that sent Ben Zobrist to Kansas City, struck out five and didn't walk a batter in his first start in more than 14 months.

Billy Butler and Sam Fuld had two hits apiece as the A's won for just the fifth time since the All-Star break.

Twins 3, Mariners 2

In Minneapolis, Kurt Suzuki hit the winning RBI single with two outs in the ninth inning after two wild pitches by Seattle closer Carson Smith let Minnesota tie the score.

Miguel Sano led off the ninth with a double, moved up on an errant fastball by Smith (1-5) that nearly hit Torii Hunter in the head. Then with two outs, pinch-runner Shane Robinson sprinted home with the tying run on another wild pitch that let Eddie Rosario take second.

Rosario, who was intentionally walked, stole third base and then scored on Suzuki's sharp single to left field.

Orioles 6, Tigers 2

In Baltimore, Caleb Joseph homered and drove in three runs and Kevin Gausman allowed four hits over seven innings as surging Baltimore beat Detroit.

Gerardo Parra went 1 for 3 and scored a run in his Baltimore debut. Obtained Friday in a trade with Milwaukee, the outfielder became the 1,000th player to appear in a game for the Orioles.

Manny Machado hit his 23rd home run for the Orioles, who have won seven of eight. Baltimore is three games over .500 for the first time since July 6 and in the thick of the AL wild-card hunt.

Red Sox 11, Rays 7

In Boston, Travis Shaw hit his first two major league homers and went 4 for 4 with five runs and four RBIs as Boston beat Tampa Bay.

Xander Bogaerts had four hits and three RBIs, and Rusney Castillo three hits and three RBIs to help the Red Sox win their third straight after losing 12 of 14.

Logan Forsythe hit a solo homer and two-run single for the Rays. They have lost five of seven.

Phillies 12, Braves 2

In Philadelphia, Odubel Herrera, Freddy Galvis and Cameron Rupp all homered as surging Philadelphia set a season high for scoring over slumping Atlanta.

Ryan Howard had three hits with a double and an RBI for the Phillies, who are a major league-best 12-2 since the All-Star break.

Maikel Franco had two doubles and two RBIs, Herrera had three hits and Cesar Hernandez and Galvis each had two as the Phillies pounded out 15 hits.

Padres 5, Marlins 3

In Miami, Odrisamer Despaigne pitched six solid innings as San Diego beat Miami.

Yangervis Solarte and Matt Kemp each had two hits and drove in a run for San Diego, which has won seven of eight and 12 of 16. Craig Kimbrel, who allowed a tying solo homer in Friday's 8-3 win that sent the game to extra innings, pitched a perfect ninth for his 31st save in 33 chances.

Merritt, Chappell share lead at Quicken Loans National

GAINESVILLE, Va. (AP)—Troy Merritt couldn't miss Saturday in the Quicken Loans National. Tiger Woods couldn't make anything.

Merritt shot a tournament-record 10-under 61 to top the leaderboard even before the leading contenders teed off. It held up, too, as several players made runs at joining him at 14 under, but only Kevin Chappell, another veteran seeking a breakthrough victory, didn't fade in the searing heat at Robert Trent Jones Golf Club.

Chappell had a 67. Rickie Fowler (68) was a stroke back, and Jason Bohn (67), Whee Kim (67), Charles Howell III (67) and David Lingmerth (68) followed at 12 under.

Woods, who seemed to signal a return to contending golf Friday with a 66 that moved him within three strokes of the lead, was errant off the tee early and had several birdie putts slide by the hole.

While Merritt had 11 birdies and a bogey on the par-5 eighth, Woods didn't make his first birdie until a 17-foot putt dropped on the par-4 15th. He hit his tee shot on the 187-yard 16th to inches, flashing a huge smile on the tee box, and then made a bogey at the par-4 18th to finish with a 74. He'll start Sunday nine shots back.

"I was waiting for the one moment, the one shot. I couldn't find it," Woods said, adding that after starting with seven consecutive pars, he thought it might come at the par-5 eighth when his tee shot finally found the fairway.

Instead, his 3-wood approach sailed over the green and he made a bogey.

"I was dead back there, compounding the problem," he said.

Merritt had long since finished and went into the final round as the leader for the second time this season. He had the lead to himself after the second and third rounds of the RBC Heritage, but finished third.

Merritt had missed five consecutive cuts coming into the week.

"The big thing is we put ourselves into contention for tomorrow and that was the goal," he said. "I wanted to have a good week this week and I've been taking weekends off for two months now."

Chappell wasn't as spectacular, but started the day tied for third and more than kept pace with the field.

"You know, I've done a really good job of functioning this week," he said. "'That's the grass. That's the sky. That's the hole. That's my ball.' Shoot the lowest score tomorrow and I win the golf tournament."

Fowler, starting in the group ahead of the last two, has already won The Players Championship and the Scottish Open this year and hopes to give the leaders something to think about as quickly as possible.

"I'm looking forward to being out in front and making some noise, see if we can chase the guys down early and get things going," he said.

Charles Howell III, playing with Woods, followed his near-ace at 16 by knocking his tee shot just to just inches, giving them both tap-in birdies, but with larger implications for Howell; the 15-year pro is seeking his first victory since the 2007 Nissan Open.

"I made some birdies and they're out there," Howell said. "Got to keep the pedal down tomorrow."

There was no shortage of players making big moves attacking soft greens and with no wind.

Carl Pettersson and Bill Haas shot 64s to move to 11 under, and Vaughn Taylor had a wild day with 10 birdies and three bogeys in another 64 that moved him into a tie for 15th at 9 under.

No one took greater advantage that Merritt, seeking his first victory in 96 career starts.

"I finally made putts," he said. "It's really frustrating the first few days hitting the ball really, really well and having good proximity to the hole and not getting much out of it. Today I hit the ball really well and got a lot out of it."

He started with five consecutive birdies and six in the first seven holes, and had four birdies in a row and five in six holes in another stretch on the back nine. He closed with a par on the par-4 18th.

Starting fast isn't unusual, Merritt said, but sustaining it has been challenging.

"Making birdie at No. 12 was a huge momentum gain," he said, speaking of the 490-yard par 4, that hardest hole on the course through three rounds. "Then went on to birdie 13, 14 and 15 making good putts."

Defending champion Justin Rose shot a 65 and was among four tied at 11 under. With conditions expected to be similar in the final round, "It's going to take something I would imagine in the realm of 63" to win, Rose said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

QUICKEN LOANS NATIONAL SCORES

GAINESVILLE, Virginia (AP) — Scores Saturday from the Quicken Loans National, a US PGA Tour event at par-71, 7,385-yard Robert Trent Jones Golf Club course:

Third Round

Troy Merritt	70-68-61	—199
Kevin Chappell	64-68-67	—199
Rickie Fowler	67-65-68	—200
Jason Bohn	67-67-67	—201
Whee Kim	68-66-67	—201
Charles Howell III	67-67-67	—201
David Lingmerth	68-65-68	—201
Carl Pettersson	70-68-64	—202
Bill Haas	67-71-64	—202
Justin Rose	66-71-65	—202
Ryo Ishikawa	63-68-71	—202
Steven Bowditch	68-68-67	—203
Danny Lee	67-67-69	—203
Ollie Schniederjans	66-69-68	—203
Vaughn Taylor	70-70-64	—204
Brendan Steele	70-68-66	—204
Cameron Tringale	68-69-67	—204
Andres Romero	69-69-67	—205
Justin Thomas	66-71-68	—205
John Peterson	67-70-68	—205
Brian Davis	70-70-66	—206
Jason Kokrak	71-68-67	—206
Colt Knost	71-67-68	—206
Steve Wheatcroft	65-73-68	—206
Shawn Stefani	71-67-68	—206
Ernie Els	64-74-68	—206
Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano	66-71-69	—206
Adam Hadwin	67-70-69	—206
Ricky Barnes	69-68-69	—206
Justin Leonard	64-72-70	—206
Brice Garnett	69-65-72	—206
Pat Perez	67-67-72	—206
Hudson Swafford	68-72-67	—207
J.J. Henry	70-69-68	—207
Tony Finau	71-67-69	—207
Chad Campbell	68-70-69	—207
Jonathan Randolph	69-68-70	—207
Retief Goosen	63-73-71	—207
Russell Knox	69-67-71	—207
Jimmy Walker	71-63-73	—207
Greg Owen	66-68-73	—207
George McNeill	71-68-69	—208
James Hahn	71-67-70	—208
Kyle Reifers	71-67-70	—208
K.J. Choi	69-68-71	—208
Mark Wilson	68-69-71	—208
John Huh	70-67-71	—208
Tiger Woods	68-66-74	—208
John Merrick	72-68-69	—209
Jonas Blixt	66-74-69	—209
Tom Hoge	69-70-70	—209
Vijay Singh	69-70-70	—209
Will Wilcox	68-71-70	—209
Harris English	70-67-72	—209
Aaron Baddeley	69-68-72	—209
Nick Taylor	68-69-72	—209
Ken Duke	73-67-70	—210
Mark Hubbard	65-74-71	—210
Jim Herman	68-71-71	—210
Bryce Molder	69-69-72	—210
Erik Compton	70-69-72	—211
Patrick Rodgers	66-72-73	—211
Max Homa	72-68-72	—212
Jonathan Byrd	68-72-72	—212
Carlos Ortiz	71-69-72	—212
Billy Hurley III	70-70-72	—212
S.J. Park	68-72-72	—212
Brendon de Jonge	69-70-73	—212
Jeff Overton	65-73-74	—212
Michael Putnam	71-66-75	—212
William McGirt	69-69-75	—213
Arjun Atwal	66-71-76	—213
Chesson Hadley	69-71-74	—214
Seung-Yul Noh	68-72-76	—216
Nicholas Thompson	70-69-79	—218

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA's current, former stars put on show in Africa exhibition

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—The NBA put on a show in its first exhibition game in Africa on Saturday—starting with a dunk straight from the tip-off by Luc Mbah a Moute.

That had the crowd roaring early at Ellis Park Arena in downtown Johannesburg. It got even louder when African NBA legends Hakeem Olajuwon and Dikembe Mutombo stripped off their business suits to don their old team uniforms again and play for a little while in the second quarter.

The 52-year-old Olajuwon, in a Houston No. 34 jersey, pulled off a turn-around jumper —the "Dream Shake"—that had the current NBA stars leaping off the benches with their arms in the air.

"That's one of the most memorable experiences ever," said Chris Paul, one of the team captains. "I told Dream, if he's still moving like that at his age now, I couldn't imagine him in his day."

After a relaxed first half, the game got serious in the second: Paul's Team World rallied with a 14-0 run in the fourth quarter to beat Luol Deng's "home" Team Africa 101-97.

"In the second half we decided enough was enough and we needed to do a lot better if we didn't want to lose by 40," Team World's Pau Gasol said.

Washington's Bradley Beal led Team World with 18 points while Paul had 12. Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo had 22 points for Team Africa, with Deng adding 20.

But this game was largely about the entertainment factor, with cheerleaders and several NBA team mascots mixing it up with the South African crowd.

Even the timeouts were used for stunts: Team Africa coach Gregg Popovich took one in the second quarter that wasn't used for a team talk, but to give everyone a chance to watch fans breakdance alongside San Antonio mascot Coyote, Philadelphia's Franklin, and Atlanta's Harry the Hawk. Even Popovich, the five-time NBA winning coach, had a big grin.

At the start of the third quarter, Paul decided that was enough fooling around, hitting three straight 3-pointers to bring the "visiting" team back. Team Africa, made up of players born in Africa or with African heritage, couldn't hold off the late surge.

"We didn't finish the game. But there's still room for improvement," Team Africa's Boris Diaw of the San Antonio Spurs said, hoping for another chance to play for an African lineup. "It was an amazing experience. So proud to be able to represent the continent."

After Jeff Green's dunk and a layup by Evan Turner, Team World was suddenly leading 85-78 in the fourth and the South African crowd had a proper game. Team World led 99-97 with a couple of seconds to go when Green was fouled and made both free throws to seal the game.

The South African exhibition was the NBA's biggest step into Africa so far, and could be the pre-cursor to a preseason and maybe even a regular season game on the continent, according to Commissioner Adam Silver.

"For me, as a kid, (I wanted) to play basketball and never had the access to meet NBA players, or watch NBA," said Deng, who was born in South Sudan. "Now to be part of a team coming back to play for Africa. I can't describe it."

WINNERS

From Page 28

the second day.

First day leader Daryl A. Poe of Guam came in third with his 155. He fired a promising 74 last Sunday before limping back into the clubhouse with an 81 on Sunday.

Favored local bet J.J. Atalig (156, 83-73) and former TOC winner Seung Woo Kang (156, 79-77) finished tied but the former beat the latter in a scorecard tiebreak to take fourth place.

In the A Flight, 11-year-old Dong Young "Edward" Lee surprised everyone by winning the division with a 164 (84-80).

Peter Tenorio came in second with a 166 (83-83), just two strokes behind Lee. When someone in the crowd shouted that the Joeten scion promote himself to Championship Flight, Tenorio gamely answered, "I just got beaten by a sixth grader!"

Yong Woon Choi completed the Top 3 with his 167 (89-78). Takao Urasawa actually finished tied with Choi with his similar 167 (84-83) but lost out via scorecard tiebreak.

The Top 5 of the A Flight was completed by Eui-Suk Ko, who came away with a 168 (85-83).

The results of the B Flight, C Flight, Women's Flight, Women's Low Net, Senior Flight, and Super Seniors Flight will be reported throughout the week by the *Saipan Tribune*.

SENIOR

From Page 28

8:45pm.

The Commonwealth's hopes in this year's edition of the summer classic for senior leaguers rest on the more than capable shoulder of Joaquin Jose Chong, Franklin Jay Lizama, Aurel Joe Mendiola, Nathan Camacho, Jobe Reyes, Craig Aguon, Franko Nakamura, Brandon Pua, Virgil Secharmidal, Anthony Agulto, Aurel Mendiola, Ethan Babauta, Lorenzo Sebaklim, Henry Lizama, Roke Tenorio, and Richard Atalig.

The 2015 Senior World Series' official website said a record five teams, including the CNMI, are returning from last year's Senior World Series.

Since the series moved to Bangor in 2002, five champions have returned in the Senior World Series the next year in an attempt to repeat. According to the official Senior World Series website, only one—Paraguana L.L., Falcon, Venezuela, which won the series in 2006—made it back to the title game.

It also noted that this is the first time five teams are returning to Bangor from the previous year. The previous record was four teams, in 2010, when Aruba South L.L., San Nicolas, Aruba; Bangor East/West L.L., Bangor, Maine; South Vineland L.L., Vineland, New Jersey; and West University returned after playing in the 2009 series.

Joining the teams that are returning from last year's series are Lazio League, Lazio, Italy, which won the Europe-Africa regional on July 17, Nogales L.L., Nogales, Arizona, which won the U.S. West regional on Monday, Upper Moreland L.L., Upper Moreland, Pennsylvania, which won the U.S. East regional on Wednesday, East Holmes L.L., Holmes County, Ohio, and Old Town L.L., Old Town, which won the Maine District 3 title on July 21.

DOLPHINS

From Page 28

less Ol'Aces ballhandlers with a menacing full-court press in the second half, which resulted in a ton of turnovers from the latter that led to easy fastbreak scoring opportunities for the former.

Within a flash what was a shaky 8-point lead became a 16-point spread with just a couple of minutes into the second half.

Like the first half, the Dolphins relied on the firepower of Alipio, Arceo, and Ogumoro as the trio unloaded a combined 41 points in the second half, which in itself outscored the paltry 23 points Ol'Aces managed in the period.

Lizama tried single-handedly to rally Ol'Aces back into contention, making 8 of his 14 total points in the half, but Islam was contained by the Dolphins' pressure defense and managed only a point more the entire period.

Alipio and Ogumoro finished with 20 points each to lead the Dolphins' onslaught of Ol'Aces, while Arceo added another 19 for the winners.

Ngirarois complemented Lizama's 14 markers with 11 of his own, while Islam wound up with 9 markers after being shackled in the second half.

The finals of the U17 Boys and U19 Boys were also held later Saturday, but results will be published on the *Saipan Tribune* in the next couple of days.

Dolphins 75 – Alipio 20, Ogumoro 20, Arceo 19, Mamaril 8, Mendoza 3, Factor 2, Cobacha 2, Quiroz 1.

Ol'Aces 48 – Lizama 14, Ngirarois 11, Islam 9, Itaas 3, Norita 2.

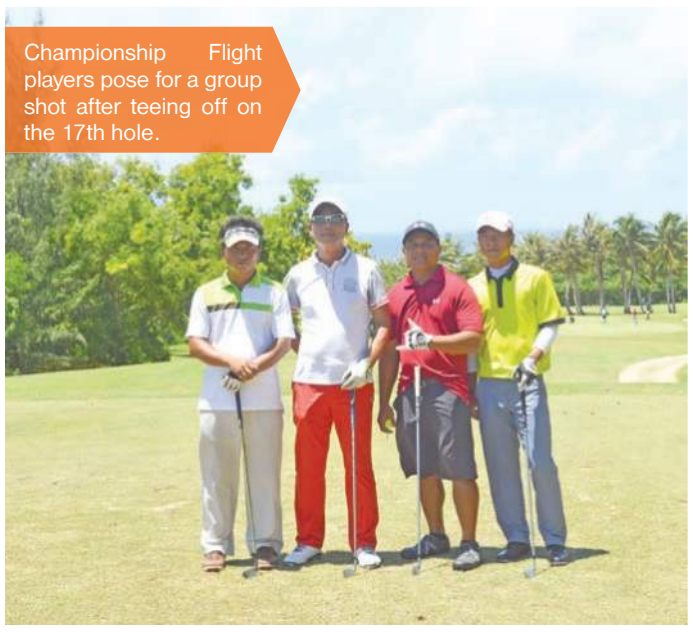
Scoring by halves: 33-25, 75-48.

2015 Tournament of Champions

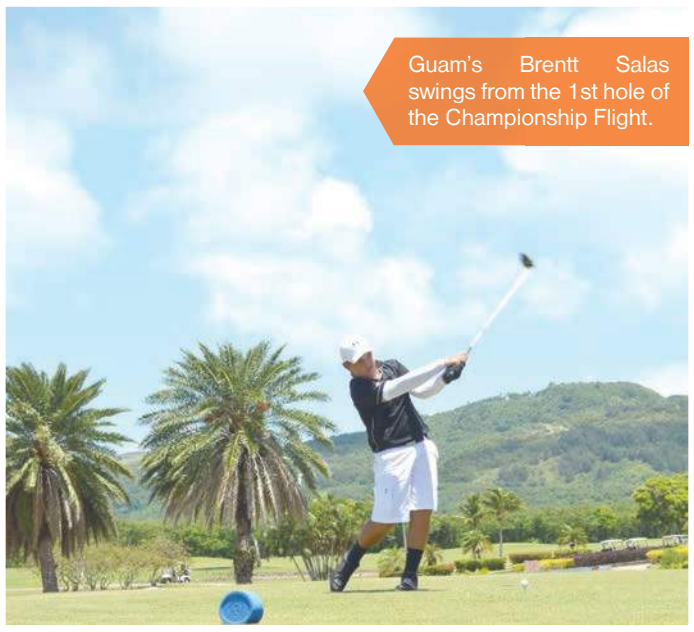
PHOTOS By MARK RABAGO

Championship Flight's J.J. Atalig relaxes inside his golf cart on the 17th hole in Day 1 of the 2015 Tournament of Champions last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

A 2015 Toyota Prius Hybrid was one of several cars offered as hole-in-one prizes in the 20th Tournament of Champion



Championship Flight players pose for a group shot after teeing off on the 17th hole.



Guam's Brentt Salas swings from the 1st hole of the Championship Flight.

Tournament of Champions tournament director Ben Babauta poses with 2015 Miss Marianas Jian Joyner.

Harry Nakamura Jr. tries to place the hole in the green of the 18th hole.

Harry Nakamura Jr. and Franco Santos are all smiles while getting ready to drive their golf cart.

From left, Championship Flight winner Jun Seok Kim, Seung Woo Kang, Brentt Salas, and Daryl Poe pose for a group shot.

Seung Woo Kang swings from the 1st hole of the Championship Flight.

Championship Flight player and Mariana Resort & Spa executive chef William Retardo swings on the 18th hole.

Mum Brady sharp in Patriots' first padded practice

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Kershaw extends scoreless streak to 37 innings

PAGE 25

15-year-old leads TOC winners

MARK RABAGO
Jun Seok Kim tees off from the 17th hole of the 2015 Tournament of Champions in Day 1 of the tournament last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

MARK RABAGO
Jun Seok Kim, left kneeling, joins other first place winners of the 20th edition of the Marianas' biggest golf event during the awards banquet Sunday at the the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

With a little help from Lady Luck, a 15-year-old student from Saipan International School won the Championship Flight of the 2015 Tournament of Champions even as Mother Nature battered the more than 200 golfers that braved Typhoon Soudelor's onslaught yesterday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Jun Seok Kim trailed eventual runner-up Seung San Choi by three strokes before the 18th hole, but Choi double-bogeyed the final hole to hand the Championship Flight trophy in a silver platter to Kim.

"I was actually losing before [the final hole]. I was three strokes down but he double-bogeyed in the last hole. He made a mistake. So I was also very lucky and I also played hard," he said in an interview following the awards banquet of the 20th edition of the Marianas' biggest golfing event.

Kim finished with a 7-over 151 in the two-day tournament after submitting a 5-over 77 last Saturday and a 2-over 74 yesterday. He climbed back from third place in Day 1 to win the premier flight of the TOC.

Curiously, the Navy Hill resident had a better showing in Day 2 of the tournament when Soudelor's typhoon condition 1 winds turned Laolao Bay into a virtual carwash compared to Day 1 when the weather was perfect for playing golf.

Kim said before the rain poured he actually was "catching birdies" that allowed him to put himself in contention and eventually capitalized on Choi's major blunder in the final hole.

By his own account, he said he probably had three birdies and 13 pars in the final round of the 2015 TOC.

Asked about the less-than-ideal conditions in the second day of the tournament, Kim said he just soldiered on like the rest of the field and was lucky that he come out as the winner of the Championship Flight.

"To be honest with you the playing conditions were very tough. It was really the toughest TOC I played and it was my third time playing in the tournament," said Kim, who is being instructed by former TOC Championship Flight winner Jun Park.

Choi finished two strokes off Kim's pace with a two-round total of 153, built on a 78 in the first day and a 75 in

» 6th grader also wins A Flight

See WINNERS on Page 26

Senior All-Stars take part in opening ceremonies

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Before facing Europe-Africa champion Lazio, Italy today, the CNMI Senior All-Stars joined nine other teams in the opening ceremonies for the 2015 World Series last night at Shawn T. Mansfield Stadium in Bangor, Maine.

The team coached by manager Greg Camacho and head coach Lawrence Camacho took its place with other regional champions of Canada, Europe-Africa, Latin America, U.S. West, U.S. Southwest, U.S. Central, U.S. East, U.S. Southeast, and host Maine.

According to 2015 Senior World Series' official website (www.worldseries.bangorinfo.com), the opening ceremonies started at 7pm with the Anah Temple Shrine clowns engaging the crowd. At 7:30pm, Maine District 3 champions in softball and baseball were recognized.

At 8pm, all 10 World Series teams, plus the 12 umpires, then paraded onto the field. In all, five national anthem were sang during the opening ceremony for the teams from Italy, Netherlands Antilles, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Canada, and the United States.

The ceremonial first pitch was then set off at 8:40pm, before the ceremonies concluded with a fireworks display at

See SENIOR on Page 26

Dolphins down Ol'Aces in U15 finals

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MARK RABAGO
The Dolphins' Aaron Ogumoro challenges the defense of an Ol'Aces player during their U15 championship game in the 2015 NMI Rollers Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Dolphins shrugged off a lackluster start to beat Ol'Aces 75-48 in the finals of U15 division of the 2015 NMI Rollers Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

It needed a tongue lashing from the Dolphins coach to set the powerhouse team straight as they only led by 8 points, 33-25, after the first 20 minutes of the ballgame.

Khalid Islam carried the offense for Ol'Aces in the first half, scoring 8 of his total 9 points, while Troy Ngirarois chipped in 6 points—on two rainbow hits—and Rikko Lizama submitted the same output to keep them within firing distance of the Dolphins.

The Dolphins barely had their head above water in the first half, but got 6 points each from Jun Alipio, Christian Arceo, and Aaron Ogumoro to keep Ol'Aces at bay.

Ol'Aces, however, faced a different looking Dolphins team as soon as the second half began.

While they seemed disinterested on defense in the first half, the Dolphins greeted hap-

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